

**An Archaeological Watching Brief  
at Chartwell Treatment Plant,  
Chartwell,  
Westerham,  
Kent, TN16 1PS.**

**NGR: 545504 151534**

**ASE Project No: 160510  
Site Code: CWE16**

**ASE Report No: 2017077  
OASIS id: archaeol6-280007**

**By Chris Russel**

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**With contributions by  
Isa Benedetti-Whitton and Luke Barber**

**Illustrations by Justin Russell**

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## **Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a sewage plant at Chartwell House, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent.*

*A total of approximately 90m of trenching and chamber excavation was monitored during the works at Chartwell House. The geological substrate was only revealed in excavations in the east of the site and this consisted of weathered yellow Atherfield Clay, which was noted at a maximum height of 141.90m AOD. A small collection of post-medieval finds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date was collected in the very east of the site, although there is a chance these were introduced during modern landscaping. The remainder of the excavations yielded no other finds and no features, suggesting that the main focus of archaeological activity at the site has always been outside the study area.*

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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 the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a sewage plant at Chartwell House, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 545504 151534 and its location is shown in Figures 1 and 2.

1.1.2 The development consists of a new sewage plant with associated pipe work and a grey water outfall.

1.1.3 As part of this scheme, an intermittent archaeological watching brief was maintained during the machine excavation for inspection chambers and associated connecting trenches in September 2015 (ASE 2015).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 According to the latest data from the British Geological Survey (BGS 2016), the solid geology of the site consists of Atherfield Clay Formation – Mudstone and Hythe Formation – Sandstone and Limestone interbedded. No superficial deposits were recorded.

1.2.2 The monitored works took place within the estate of Chartwell House in parkland and gardens. Contour values fell from around 165m AOD in the west to around 140m in the east.

### **1.3 Aims and Objectives**

1.3.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the development.

#### *Specific Research Aims*

1.3.2 In addition, the watching brief was considered to have the potential to address the following specific research aims:

- The watching brief will seek to shed light on Prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval activity in this area.
- The watching brief will seek to recover more information concerning the post-medieval development of the site.

### **1.5 Scope of Report**

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site which took place intermittently between the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November 2016 and the 30<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. The work was carried out by Cat Douglas (Archaeologist), Chris Russel (Archaeologist) and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Fieldwork Manager)

and by Jim Stevenson Post-excavation Manager).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

- 2.1.1 The following information is drawn from a desk-based assessment prepared by ASE in 2015 (ASE 2015), which considered recorded archaeological sites within a 1km radius of the site. For a more complete background refer to that document.

### **2.2 Period Summaries**

#### *Prehistoric*

- 2.2.1 There are no references to known heritage assets of prehistoric date within the site and those within the wider vicinity are also limited. A hoard of Iron Age coins was recovered from an area of gravel workings c.450m to the north of the site; this comprised 14 individual coins in a flint 'money box'. Single Iron Age coins have been found to the west and north-east of the site.

#### *Romano-British*

- 2.2.2 As with the earlier periods there is very little evidence for activity of Romano-British date within the study area, with known remains of this date confined to a single lead weight found in the vicinity of the Mariners Hill memorial c.800m south-west of the site. In the wider landscape the London-Lewes Roman road lies some 2.5km to the west of the site and is an area of Roman activity.

#### *Early Medieval and Medieval*

- 2.2.3 There are no known archaeological sites of the early medieval period within the site or study area and those of the medieval period are limited to a single findspot; a jetton which may have been found within the park.

#### *Post-Medieval*

- 2.2.4 The earliest elements of the existing Chartwell House, situated on the western valley side to the south of the site, date to between 1515 and 1546 (ASE 2009). The surviving elements of this early phase, a rectangular range, were once part of a larger complex that has been subject to alternate or progressive rebuild (ASE 2009). The home would seem to have been of high status, it is rumoured that Henry VIII stayed there whilst visiting Anne Boleyn at nearby Hever Castle (Pannett 2011).
- 2.2.5 The Foundling House remained through the early part of the 19th century. The park in which the site is located is likely to have been established by this date and set within a landscape where the wooded shaws were converted to high forest provide attractive tree belts (Fretwell 2002).
- 2.2.6 Whilst the Churchill's had visited the estate in 1921 they did not have the funds available to purchase it. However it was still available in 1922 when Winston inherited Garron Towers, Co. Antrim, which provided an annual income of £4000 so he purchased Lot 1 - the house, garden and park (Fretwell 2002). The Churchills immediately set about redesigning the house and ground,

employing Philip Armstrong Tilden to renovate both the house and garden. The work at the house involved the rebuilding of the southeastern blocks to the rear of the main range, the extension to the east range and the construction of the southeast block or stair tower. In addition to the substantial rebuilding the interior of the property was remodelled and redecorated in its entirety.

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Fieldwork Methodology**

3.1.1 Mechanical and limited manual excavation of pipe trenching was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. This trenching was approximately 0.60m wide and between 0.80 and 1.0m deep. Excavations for inspection chambers were 1.0m<sup>2</sup> and dug to the same level as the trenching. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.

3.1.2 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. A full photographic record of the work was maintained throughout.

3.1.3 All work was carried out in accordance with the methodology set out in the WSI (ASE 2016) and with the Kent County Council standard specification for watching briefs (KCC 2007) and the relevant Standard and Guidance documents of the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA 2014a; 2014b)

#### **3.2 Fieldwork Constraints**

3.2.1 No constraints were encountered during the watching brief.

#### **3.3 The Site Archive**

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at an appropriate local museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	5
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	187
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	7
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive



Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box )	1 Bag
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

- 3.3.2 The finds and environmental samples ultimately deposited as part of the archive are dependent on specialist recommendations and regional archive requirements.

## 4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2-4)

### 4.1 Trenches monitored 03/11/2016-21/11/2016

4.1.1 A total of approximately 50m of pipe trench were monitored intermittently between the 3<sup>rd</sup> and the 21<sup>st</sup> of November 2016. The trench was 0.60m wide and dug to roughly 0.90m below ground level (BGL). Inspection pits were 1.0m<sup>2</sup>. The trenches were located in the east of the site in short grass parkland.

4.1.2 The excavations revealed yellow weathered Atherfield Clay geology [03] at between 0.80 and 0.90m BGL. This was overlain by light brown silty clay subsoil [02] with the sequence capped by dark brown clay silt topsoil. A small number of finds were recovered from the subsoil deposit. No archaeological features were observed.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.40
02	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.40-0.50
03	Layer	Geology	Trench	Trench	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts for November 2016

### 4.2 Trenches monitored 05/01/2017-29/01/2017

4.2.1 A total of approximately 40m of pipe trench were monitored intermittently between the 5<sup>th</sup> and the 29<sup>th</sup> of January 2017. The trench was between 0.30-0.60m wide and dug to roughly 0.90m below ground level (BGL). Inspection pits were 1.0m<sup>2</sup> and dug to the same level as the trenches. A small section was monitored to the east of the walled garden and the remainder were dug in an orchard in the south-west of the site.

4.2.2 The excavations had minimal impact on the geological substrate [03] which was only observed in the trench dug close to the walled garden. Where this layer was observed it was identical to that described above. The trenches generally revealed orange brown silty clay subsoil [06] overlain by dark brown silty clay topsoil [05]. No finds or features were observed during this phase of works.

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
05	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.20-0.40
06	Layer	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	0.40-0.50

Table 4: List of recorded contexts for January 2017

## 5.0 THE FINDS

### 5.1 Summary

- 5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at the Chartwell Sewage Plant Installation, Westerham. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 5). All finds have been packed and stored following ClfA guidelines (2014c).

Context	CBM	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
2	3	450	1	164
Total	3	450	1	164

Table 5: Finds quantification

### 5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Isa Benedetti-Whitton

- 5.2.1 Three pieces of post-medieval roof tile were recovered from context [2]. Two fragments were in a hard fired iron-rich clay with ferrous pellets and sparse marbling of paler clay (T1), whilst the third was in a softer orange fabric with sparse unsorted quartz and calcareous deposits (T2). The tile fragments were fairly thick for roof tile, but lacked any further characteristics including peg holes. The level of firing on the T2 fragments is suggestive of a later post-medieval date, of the later 18<sup>th</sup> or 19<sup>th</sup> century although flat roof tile with no further characteristics is difficult to date with any accuracy.
- 5.2.2 All the material was quantified by form, weight and fabric and recorded on a standard recording form. This information was then entered into a digital Excel database. Fabric descriptions were developed with the aid of a x20 binocular microscope and use the following conventions: frequency of inclusions as sparse, moderate, common or abundant; the size of inclusions as fine (up to 0.25mm), medium (up to 0.25 and 0.5mm), coarse (0.5-1.0mm) and very coarse (larger than 1.0mm). The material has been retained but is recommended for discard.

### 5.3 The Glass by Luke Barber

- 5.3.1 A single 164g base fragment from a wine bottle in dark green glass was recovered from context [02]. The base, which has a slight kick with pontil scar, is probably from an onion/mallet-type vessel of the first half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century, though a larger piece would be needed to be certain.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 6.1.1 Where the geological substrate was observed it was seen at around 0.80-0.90m BGL (approximately 141.90m AOD max.). This was overlain by undisturbed subsoil and topsoil. The excavations were very limited in nature.
- 6.1.2 A small amount of artefacts were recovered from the subsoil in the east of the works and these were of a late post-medieval/Modern date. These may relate to activity at the site from this period or may have been introduced during successive phases of landscaping.

### **6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 6.2.1 No significant disturbance to the deposits was noted on site.

### **6.3 Consideration of research aims**

- 6.3.1 The research aims as set out above are as follows;
- The watching brief will seek to shed light on Prehistoric, Romano-British or medieval activity in this area.
  - The watching brief will seek to recover more information concerning the post-medieval development of the site.
- 6.3.2 The watching brief did not encounter any finds or features relating to any activity predating the post-medieval period at Chartwell and only a very small amount of finds dating to the 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> centuries were recovered. The scant assemblage of artefacts found sheds little light on the post-medieval development of Chartwell House and may even have been introduced to the site by landscaping activity.
- 6.3.3 The scarcity of recovered finds in itself may suggest that the areas monitored have always been marginal to the activity centred on Chartwell House. No archaeological features were observed.

### **6.4 Conclusion**

- 6.4.1 A total of approximately 90m of trenching and chamber excavation was monitored during the works at Chartwell House. The geological substrate was only revealed in excavations in the east of the site and this consisted of weathered yellow Atherfield Clay, which was noted at a maximum height of 141.90m AOD. A small collection of post-medieval finds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date, was recovered during excavations in the very east of the site, although there is a chance these were introduced during recent landscaping. The remainder of the excavations yielded no other finds and no features at all suggesting that the main focus of archaeological activity at the site has always been outside of the study area.

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank the National Trust for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Kent County Council Archaeologist for their guidance and monitoring. The watching brief was supervised by Chris Russel, Justin Russell produced the figures for this report, Neil Griffin project managed the excavations and Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift project managed the post-excavation process.

## Appendix 1: HER Summary

HER enquiry no.						
Site code	CWE16					
Project code	160510					
Planning reference						
Site address	Chartwell Treatment Plant, Chartwell, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS.					
District/Borough	Sevenoaks					
NGR (12 figures)	545504 151534					
Geology	Atherfield Caly					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	<b>WB</b>	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	Start: 03-11-2016 End: 30-01-2017					
Sponsor/client	The National Trust					
Project manager	Neil Griffin					
Project supervisor	Chris Russel					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	<b>Post-Medieval</b>	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by the National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the installation of a sewage plant at Chartwell House, Mapleton Road, Westerham, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>A total of approximately 90m of trenching and chamber excavation was monitored during the works at Chartwell House. The geological substrate was only revealed in excavations in the east of the site and this consisted of weathered yellow Atherfield Clay. A small collection of post-medieval finds of 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> century date was recovered, however, no features were encountered.</i></p>					
Museum/Accession No.	TBC					

**Finds summary**

<b>Find type</b>	<b>Material</b>	<b>Period</b>	<b>Quantity</b>
CBM	Tile	Post-medieval	3 frags
Glass	Bottle	Post-medieval	1 piece

## Appendix 2: OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-280007**

**Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Chartwell Treatment Plant, Chartwell, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS.
Short description of the project	A total of approximately 90m of trenching and chamber excavation was monitored during the works at Chartwell House. The geological substrate was only revealed in excavations in the east of the site and this consisted of yellow clay and noted at a maximum height of 141.90m AOD. A small collection of Post medieval finds (18th-19th Century in date) was collected in the very east of the site although there is a chance these were introduced to site during modern landscaping. The remainder of the excavations yielded no other finds and no features at all suggesting that the main focus of archaeological activity at the site has always been outside the study area.
Project dates	Start: 03-11-2016 End: 30-01-2017
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	160510 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CWE16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	National Trust land
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
<b>Project location</b>	
Country	England
Site location	KENT SEVENOAKS WESTERHAM Chartwell House
Postcode	TN16 1PS
Study area	10 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 545504 151534 50.914544354605 0.198813651574 50 54 52 N 000 11 55 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 140m Max: 164m
<b>Project creators</b>	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	National Trust

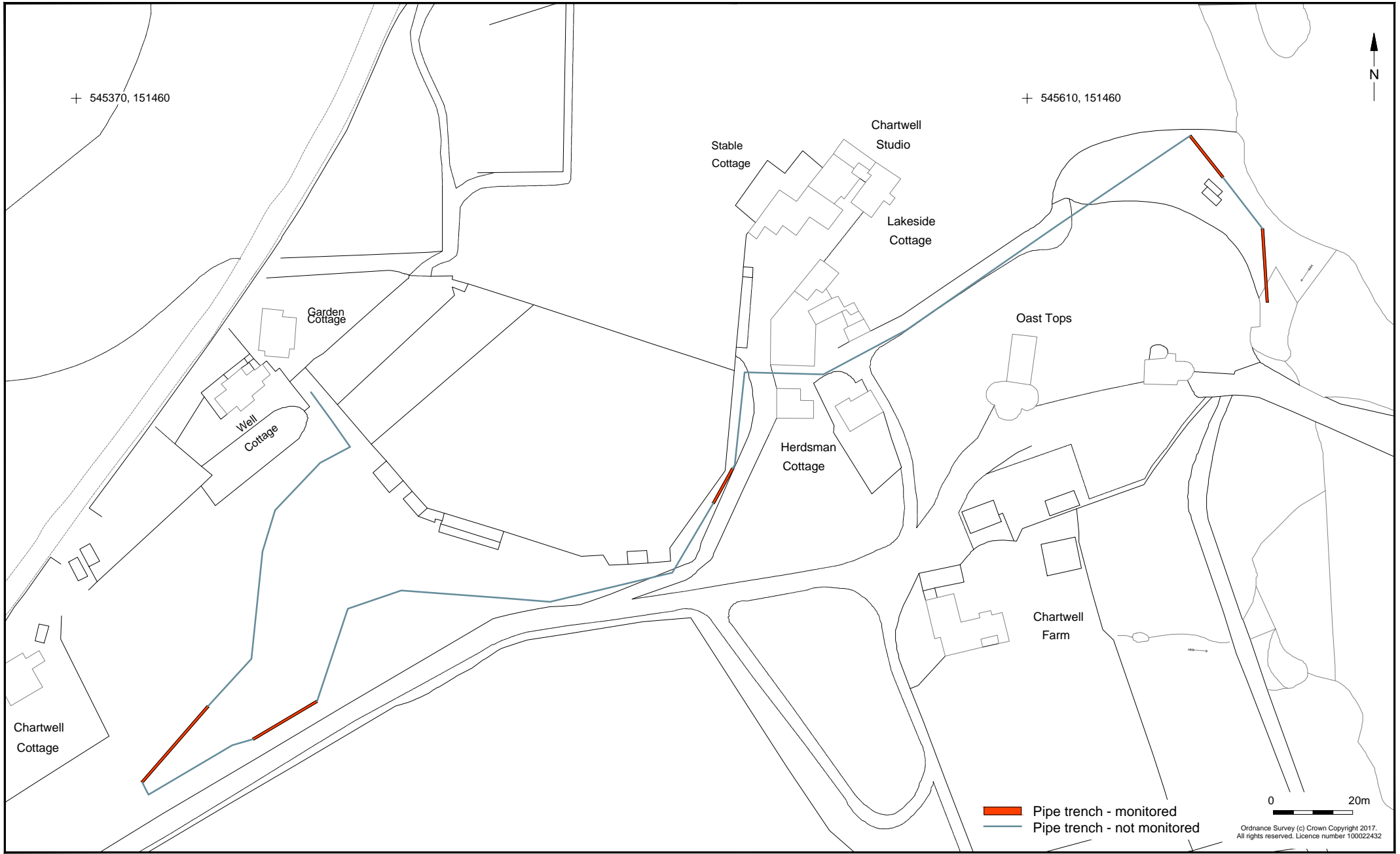


Project design originator	ASE
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	National Trust
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	"Glass", "other"
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	"none"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	"none"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Chartwell Treatment Plant, Chartwell, Westerham, Kent, TN16 1PS.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel,C
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Entered on	21 March 2017



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Project Ref: 160510	March 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017077	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Chartwell, Sewage Plant Installation	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160510	March 2017	Location of monitored groundworks	
Report Ref: 2017077	Drawn by: JLR		



Photograph 1: trench looking north-east



Photograph 2: trench looking north-east



Photograph 3: trench looking south-east

© Archaeology South-East		Chartwell, Sewage Plant Installation	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160510	March 2017	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2017077	Drawn by: JLR		





Photograph 4: trench looking north



Photograph 5: trench looking south-east

© Archaeology South-East		Chartwell, Sewage Plant Installation	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 160510	March 2017	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2017077	Drawn by: JLR		

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