

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
During the Woolmans Wood Water Main Renewal,
Princes Park, Chatham, Kent**

NGR: 576528 164823


**ASE Project No: 160919
Site Code: WOW17
ASE Report No: 2017317
OASIS id: archaeol6-290060**

By Odile Rouard

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Date of Issue:	July 2017		
Revision:			

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Clancy Group, acting for Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the replacement of a water-main in the vicinity of the Princes Park, south of Chatham, Kent.

A trench measuring approximately 550m in length and 0.60m in width was largely dug in undisturbed ground. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by The Clancy Group, acting for Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the replacement of a water-main in the vicinity of the Princes Park, south of Chatham, Kent (centred on NGR NGR 576528 164823; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology

1.2.1 According to the British Geological Survey, the bedrock geology along the route comprises Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation. There are no mapped superficial deposits on the route itself (BGS 2017).

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The broad aims of the watching brief were:

- To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any such remains and deposits
- To assess how they might be affected by the development of the site
- To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site
- To assess what options should be considered for mitigation

1.3.2 Investigation of the site also has the potential to address the following research priorities identified in the draft South East Research Framework:

- Is there any evidence of features associated with prehistoric settlement, such as field systems and droveways?
- Is there any evidence of Roman occupation on the site?
- The lack of Anglo-Saxon settlements in the north Kent coastal plain is well-known (Thomas 2013, 6). It is believed that because of the heavy soils, this remained a marginal area for colonisation. Does this view reflect the evidence from the site? Is there any evidence of Anglo-Saxon occupation on the site or is it likely that it was woodland for much of the period?
- Rural settlement in Kent during the medieval period is characterised by dispersed patterns of small hamlets and isolated farms (Weekes 2012, 10). Is there any evidence of medieval settlement or agricultural practice on the site during the medieval period? If not, is it more likely that the site was woodland? Is there any continuity of land-use between the Anglo-Saxon and medieval periods?

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological work on the site. The monitoring was undertaken by Odile Rouard (Archaeologist) and Gary Webster

(Archaeologist) between the 19th of June and the 4th of July 2017. The project was managed by Paul Mason (fieldwork) and Andy Margetts (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Summary

2.1.1 The following background is paraphrased from the Desk-based Assessment (ASE 2016).

2.2 Prehistoric

2.2.1 No known archaeological sites of this period have been identified within the vicinity. A find-spot of a Bronze Age socketed axe is recorded to the south-east of the route.

2.3 Romano-British

2.3.1 There are no known archaeological remains of Romano-British date within the vicinity of the site.

2.4 Anglo-Saxon

2.4.1 The only recorded find of this period is a find-spot of a copper alloy buckle, decorated with animal heads and what may be a human figure.

2.5 Medieval

2.5.1 The site lies towards the southern edge of the parish of Chatham. It was first recorded in 880 AD as Cetham and the Domesday Book (1086) as *Ceteham*. The place-name is likely to derive from its topographical location as a valley or wood.

2.5.2 The route lies in what is likely to have been a rural area, away from any foci of settlement. The only archaeological remains recorded of medieval date within the vicinity comprises of a find-spot of a coin.

2.6 Post-Medieval

2.6.1 The hilly ground in the south of the parish of Chatham is described by Hasted in the late 18th century as being interspersed with coppiced woodland. The route may cross a wooded area. Settington Farm had been established by this date, situated on the lower ground to the south of the route.

2.6.2 By the late 18th century a farmstead had been established in the base of the valley to the west of the site. It was named Keppel and is now situated below the Redwing Road development. Subsequent decades saw little alteration to the area until the early to mid-20th century when development began to creep southwards from Chatham and Luton. By 1939 scattered residential development ran along Lordswood Lane, which lies to the west of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 A watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the renewal of a water-main at Woolmans Wood, Prince Park, Chatham.
- 3.1.2 All excavations were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was visually scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.1.3 All deposits encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using ASE standard record sheets. A full photographic record of the area was kept and forms part of the site archive. All work was undertaken in accordance with the approved Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017) the ClfA Standard Guidance for an Archaeological Watching Brief, Code of Conduct (ClfA 2014a; 2014b) and Kent County Council's Standard Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief.
- 3.1.4 The fieldwork methodology outlined in the preceding Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2017) was adhered to throughout the project. The only deviation from this document was that the pipe trench was moved slightly to the west to avoid an existing service (Figure 2).

3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

- 3.2.1 Owing to the nature of the groundworks, the work involved dealing with a very narrow trench. As such observations were restricted.

3.3 The Site Archive

- 3.3.1 The project archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will be deposited with a suitable local museum in due course. The contents of the project archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	68 digital images

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Pipe Trench

4.1.1 The watching brief was undertaken over a two-and-a-half-week period in June and July 2017. Because of the narrowness of the trench, it was extremely difficult to identify any archaeology. The trench measured 571m in length x 0.60m in width.

4.1.2 The stratigraphy in the trench was observed to be the natural white chalk (002) over the majority of the excavation. At the west of the excavation, the natural was a very chalky light orange clay (Head deposit), which became solid chalk further to the east. It was overlain by dark grey-brown clay-silt topsoil (001).

4.1.3 The first (southernmost) 21m of the excavation were through a footpath. Deposits encountered here comprised tarmac (004) overlying made ground (003) and natural (002).

4.1.4 No archaeological deposits, finds or features were identified.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	550m	0.60m	0.15-0.20m
002	Layer	Natural	-	-	-
003	Layer	Made Ground	21m	0.60m	0.1-0.20m
004	Layer	Tarmac	21m	0.60m	

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features or deposits were identified during the watching brief. The footpath was terraced into the slope which it traversed. This had served to remove the original topsoil and truncate the natural geology. In the remaining monitored areas (to the western side of the footpath) the pipe trench was excavated through undisturbed ground. Despite this no archaeological features or finds were encountered.
- 5.2 None of the research aims set out in section 1.3 could therefore be addressed. This is likely due to the marginal or agricultural nature of the area of the site during the historic period until the later 20th century. The lack of archaeological evidence is also reflective of the lack of previous finds from the vicinity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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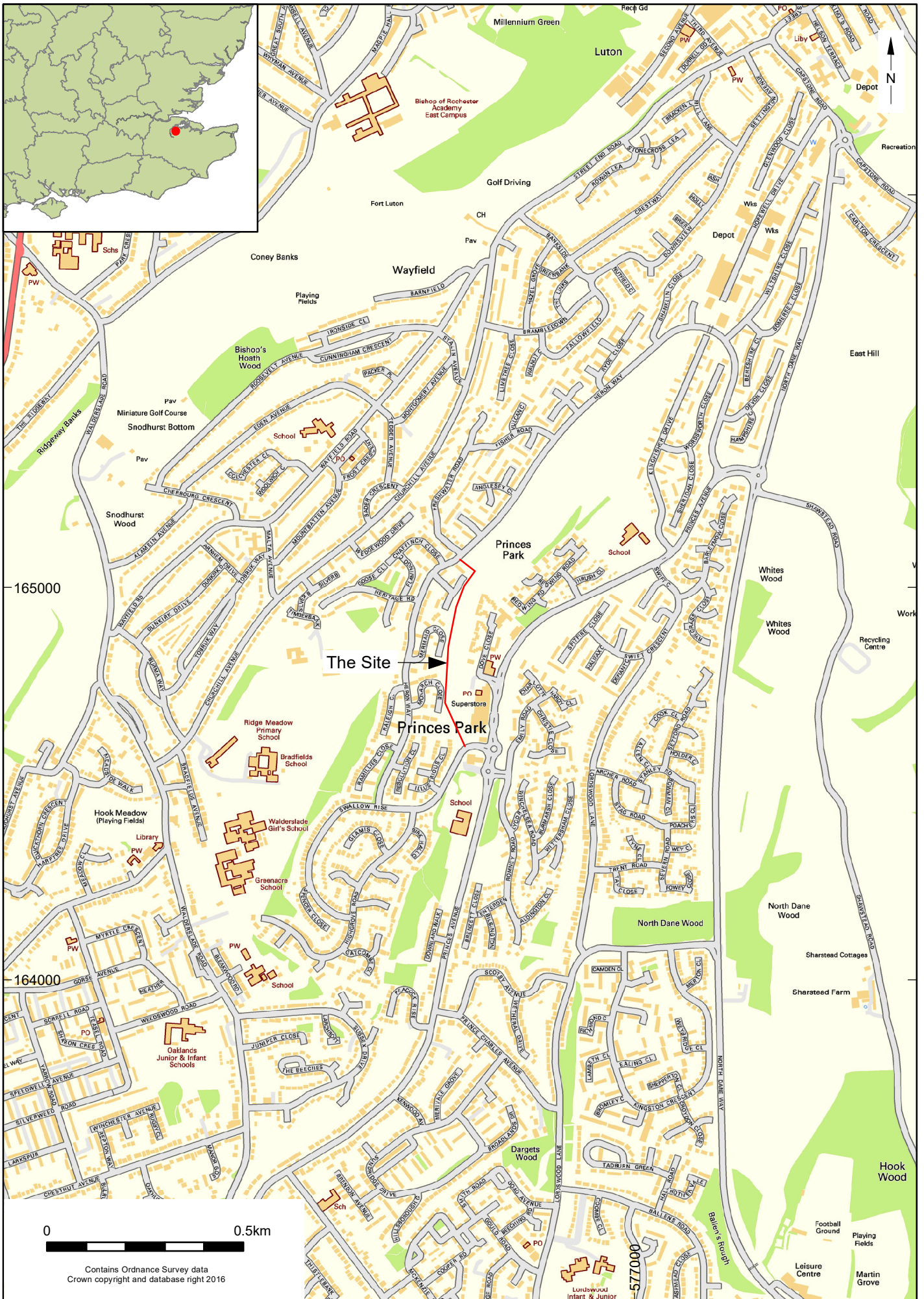
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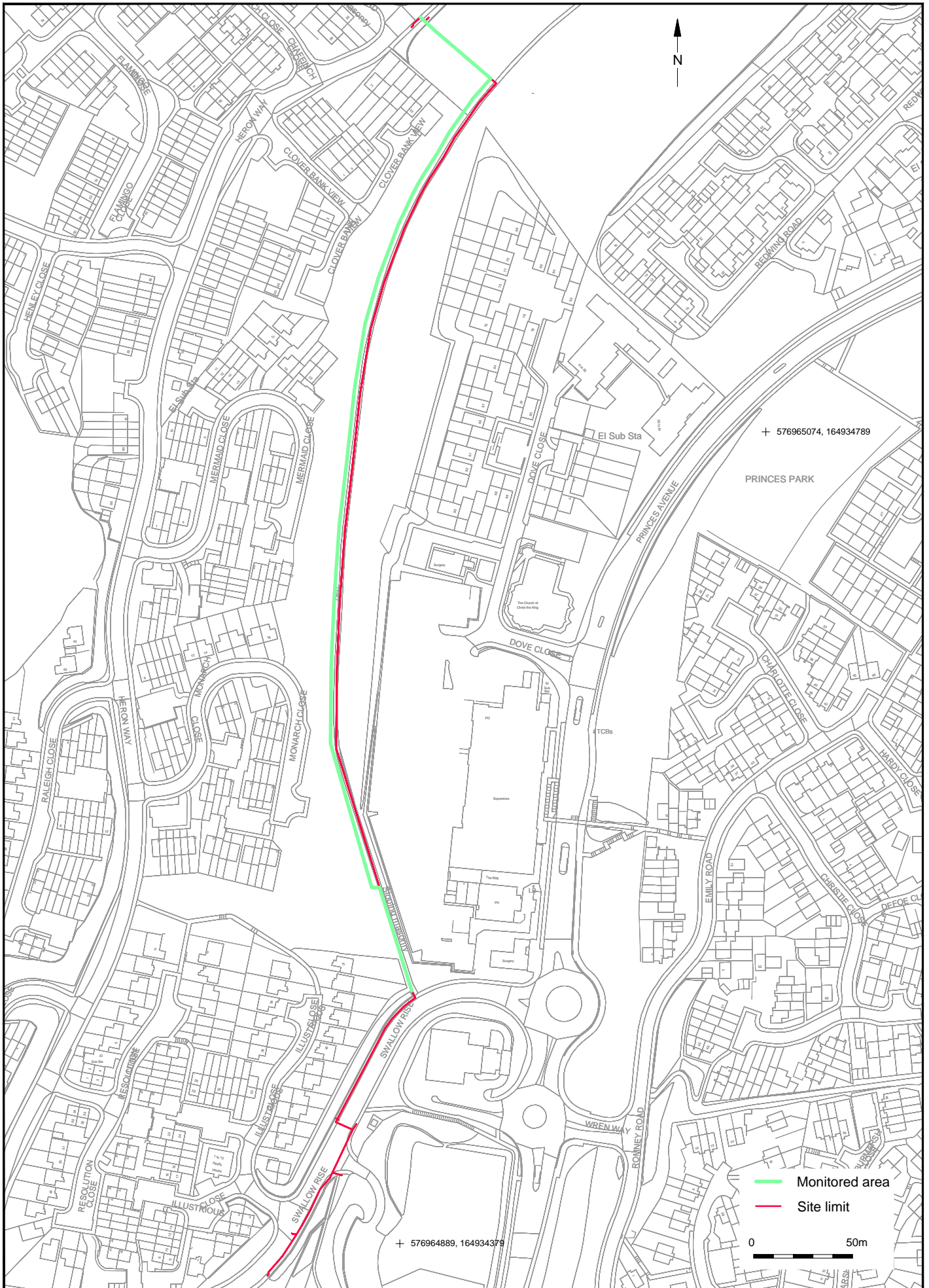
ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank the Clancy Group for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project. The watching brief was conducted by Odile Rouard and Gary Webster. Antonio Reis produced the figures for this report; Paul Mason managed the excavations and Andy Margetts the post-excavation process.



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© Archaeology South-East		Woolmans Wood, Water Main Replacement Scheme		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160919	July 2017	Site location		
Report Ref: 2017317	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Woolmans Wood, Water Main Replacement Scheme		Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160919	July 2017	Pipe line and monitored work location		
Report Ref: 2017317	Drawn by: AR			



Monitored works, looking north east



Sample section, looking north west



Monitored works, looking south west

HER Summary

Site code	WOW17				
Project code	160919				
Planning reference					
Site address	Woolmans Wood, Princes Park, Chatham, Kent				
District/Borough	Chatham, Kent				
NGR (12 figures)	576528 164823				
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation				
Fieldwork type			WB		
Date of fieldwork	19 th of June to 4 th of July 2017				
Sponsor/client	Southern Water				
Project manager	Paul Mason				
Project supervisor	Odile Rouard				
Period summary	No finds				
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Clancy Group, acting for Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the replacement of a water-main in the vicinity of the Princes Park, south of Chatham, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>A trench measuring approximately 550m in length and 0.60m in width was largely dug in previously disturbed ground. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.</i></p>				

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-290060

Project details

Project name	Woolmans Wood Water Main Renewal, Princes Park, Chatham, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the Clancy Group, acting for Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive groundworks associated with the replacement of a water-main in the vicinity of the Princes Park, south of Chatham, Kent. A trench measuring approximately 550m in length and 0.60m in width was dug in previously undisturbed ground. No archaeological finds, features or deposits were encountered during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 19-06-2017 End: 04-07-2017
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WOW17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 15 - Other
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Planning condition
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT MEDWAY CHATHAM Princes Park
Postcode	ME5 7PT
Study area	0.5 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 576528 164823 50.925644954736 0.243490728991 50 55 32 N 000 14 36 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 15m Max: 20m
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Southern Water
Project design originator	Southern Water
Project director/manager	Paul Mason

Project supervisor	Odile Rouard
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southern Water
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Paper Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report During the Woolmans Wood Water Main Renewal, Princes Park, Chatham, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Rouard, O.
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade
Entered by	Odile Rouard (o.rouard@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	12 July 2017

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