

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Hall Road, Aylesford, Kent**

**NGR: 572984 158885  
(TQ 72984 58885)**

**ASE Project No: 171051  
Site Code: HRA 16  
ASE Report No: 2017514  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-302798**




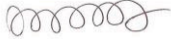
**By Simon Stevens BA MCIfA**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by MGJV on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on the banks of the River Medway, Hall Road, Aylesford, Kent.*

*No significant geoarchaeological, or archaeological, deposits were encountered during the monitoring of limited groundworks, which succeeded in the project aim of identifying the alignment of an existing pipe.*

## CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction
- 2.0 Archaeological Background
- 3.0 Archaeological Methodology
- 4.0 Results
- 5.0 Discussion and Conclusions

Bibliography  
Acknowledgements

Appendix 1 - HER data

HER Summary  
OASIS Form

## FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location showing local HER data  
Figure 2: Site plan and photographs

## TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive  
Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples  
Table 3: List of recorded contexts

## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by MGJV on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on the banks of the River Medway, Hall Road, Aylesford, Kent (NGR 572984 158885; Figure 1). The groundworks involved the mechanical excavation of strip trenches and test-holes to ascertain the alignment of the 'lost' main.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The archaeologically monitored groundworks were undertaken on the west bank of the River Medway to the north of Aylesford's historic bridge. At the time of the work the area was a public open space (fenced for the duration of the works) adjacent to a footpath.

1.2.2 According to current 1:50,000 data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying solid geology comprises Folkestone Formation sandstone, overlain by Pleistocene River Terrace deposits and clay/sand/silt/peat Holocene alluvial superficial geology (BGS 2017).

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 The aim of the project was the relining of an existing 400mm uPVC section of pipe running below the River Medway, Aylesford, Kent. The main to be relined is one of two pipes originally laid by open cut across the Medway to create a twin crossing of the river. It was laid for future use and has never been in service, but is laid directly adjacent to a 'live' main. The monitored element of the scheme involved the mechanical excavation of test-pits on the western side of the river to uncover the 'lost' main.

1.3.2 As Permitted Development under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015, the scheme falls outside of the usual Local Planning Authority framework(s).

1.3.2 However, following consultation between Southern Water, ASE and Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, it was agreed that archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the scheme would be prudent, given the proximity of known potential geoarchaeological and archaeological deposits.

1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2016, updated in 2017) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results of the monitoring of the groundworks.

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site undertaken in December 2016 and November 2017.

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

### 2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following summary and research aims are taken from the WSI with all due acknowledgement (*ibid*). A 500m radius search of the Kent County Council Historic Environment Record (KCC HER) centred on NGR 572998 158877 identified numerous entries covering all periods. Selected entries are show in the Appendix below and illustrated on Figure 1.

### 2.2 Summary

2.2.1 The site lies in an area of archaeological potential associated with the discovery of a number of Palaeolithic and Mesolithic flints, hand-axes and flakes in addition to a late Bronze Age sword, axes and torcs (number **1** to **24**, see Appendix 1 and Figure 1). A Roman coin find is recorded 220m to the north-west (**29**) and the Scheduled Ancient Monument of Aylesford Bridge lies 30m to the north (**37**).

2.2.2 A cemetery of the British Iron Age discovered in 1886 was excavated under the leadership of Sir Arthur Evans (of Knossos fame), and published in 1890. Many of Evans' finds are now kept in the British Museum, including a bronze jug, pan and 'bucket' with handles in the form of a human face from a cremation burial. With the later excavation at Swarling not far away this is the type site for Aylesford-Swarling pottery or the Aylesford-Swarling culture. Evan's conclusion that the site belonged to a culture closely related to the continental Belgae, remains the modern view, though the dating has been refined to the period after about 75 BC. The village has been suggested as the site of the Battle of the Medway during the Roman invasion of Britain although there is no direct evidence of this.

2.2.3 Aylesford Village is at least Saxon in origins and probably older. The Anglo-Saxon Chronicle records the Battle of Aylesford taking place nearby in 455, when the Germanic Hengest fought the Welsh Vortigern.

### 2.3 Research Aims and Objectives

2.3.1 The broad aims of the investigation (*ibid*), in keeping with previous similar projects are:

- *To determine the presence or absence of archaeological remains on site with particular reference to palaeoenvironmental deposits*
- *To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any 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, if any, should be considered for mitigation following completion of the initial watching brief*

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The mechanical excavations of test-holes was monitored by a suitably qualified geoarchaeologist/archaeologist. All sections were examined for archaeological deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector.

3.1.2 All encountered deposits were recorded according 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. A full photographic record of the monitoring was maintained.

3.1.3 The fieldwork was undertaken in accordance with the ClfA *Standards, and Guidance* (ClfA 2017).

#### 3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

3.2.1 There were no physical constraints to the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks; all machining was closely observed, all sections were examined and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.

#### 3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Maidstone Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	2
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	26
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	2
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 )	0
Registered finds (number of)	
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

## 4.0 RESULTS (Figure 3)

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The groundworks involved the mechanical excavation of test-holes to ascertain the alignment of the 'lost' main.

### 4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

Context	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness m
100	Layer	Made Ground	2.10
101	Layer	Made Ground	Not ascertained

Table 3 - List of recorded contexts

4.2.1 During the first visit in December 2016 a mechanically excavated slit trench revealed a straightforward stratigraphic sequence consisting of a highly mixed silty clay made ground varying in colour between mid-greyish brown and mid-brown, containing brick and concrete rubble as well as timber, metalwork and glass, context [100]. This overlay a highly disturbed/truncated deposit of alluvial clays and silts, context [101], which contained occasional degraded organics, shells and brick fragments, encountered at the base of the trench. This deposit had been trenched by service trenches.

4.2.2 During two visits in November 2017, a 3m by 3m test pit was mechanically excavated and again revealed only made ground truncated by service trenches, but did result in the rediscovery of the alignment of the 'lost' pipe, encountered at a depth of 2.1m below the current ground surface.



## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 5.1.1 Only deposits of made ground were encountered during the watching brief. No deposits of geoarchaeological or archaeological significance were recorded during the current groundworks.

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 5.2.1 There had clearly been substantial earthmoving in the area in the relatively recent past, both in the creation of the riverbank and in the laying of services (including the 'lost' main itself). No undisturbed geological deposits (e.g. potentially significant alluvial deposits) were encountered.

### **5.3 Consideration of research aims**

- 5.3.1 Some of the research aims were met insofar as the level of disturbance/truncation at the site was ascertained. Little else of substance can be said.

### **5.4 Conclusions**

- 5.4.1 Monitoring of the highly limited mechanical excavation at the site did not result in the identification of any significant geoarchaeological or archaeological deposits.

## BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE, 2016 *Hall Road WPS, Aylesford, Kent, ME20 7AX - Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological and Geographical Investigation*. Unpub. ASE document (updated 2017)

BGS, 2017 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 04.12.2017 <http://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>

CIfA, 2017 *Standards and Guidance*

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank MGJV for commissioning the archaeological work, and Wendy Rogers, Senior Archaeological Officer, Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council for her input at all stages of the project. Thanks are also due to the groundworkers for their co-operation and hospitality. The work was undertaken by Ed Blinkhorn and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologists). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson and Dan Swift (Post-excavation Managers).

### Appendix 1 - HER data

No	Date	MonUID	Name
1	Palaeolithic	MKE39826	Palaeolithic flake and handaxes discovered in the Aylesford area
2	Palaeolithic	MKE39827	Lower / middle Palaeolithic cores, flakes and handaxes collected by Burchell from the Aylesford area.
3	Palaeolithic	MKE39828	16 lower / middle Palaeolithic handaxes from the Aylesford area. Part of the Sturge collection
4	Palaeolithic	MKE39829	Lower / middle Palaeolithic finds from the general Aylesford area
5	Palaeolithic	MKE39830	Lower / middle Palaeolithic artefacts from the general Aylesford area
6	Palaeolithic	MKE39831	Lower / middle Palaeolithic finds discovered in the general Aylesford area
7	Palaeolithic	MKE39833	Two lower / middle Palaeolithic handaxes from the general Aylesford area
8	Palaeolithic	MKE39834	Lower / middle Palaeolithic handaxes from the general Aylesford area
9	Palaeolithic	MKE39832	Lower / middle Palaeolithic finds from the general Aylesford area
10	Palaeolithic	MKE39847	Lower / middle Palaeolithic handaxes from Bryce's Sand Pit
11	Palaeolithic	MKE2040	Palaeolithic flints, Silas Wagon's Pit, Aylesford
12	Palaeolithic	MKE15978	Palaeolithic flint implements, Aylesford
13	Mesolithic	MKE2082	A Mesolithic tranchet axe found in Aylesford
14	Mesolithic	MKE2083	A Mesolithic blade found in Aylesford
15	Mesolithic	MKE2116	Mesolithic tranchet axe, Aylesford
16	Mesolithic	MKE75934	Mesolithic flint hammerstone
17	Neolithic	MKE2071	Two Neolithic stone axes found at Aylesford
18	Bronze Age	MKE2045	Late Bronze Age gold armlets (4), Aylesford
19	Bronze Age	MKE2054	Late Bronze Age leaf-shaped sword, Aylesford
20	Bronze Age	MKE2055	Four Bronze Age looped and socketed axes found at Aylesford
21	Bronze Age	MKE2073	Bronze Age burials found at the old gravel pit in Aylesford
22	Bronze Age/ Iron Age	MKE6975	Gold torc found 1772
23	Iron Age	MKE2039	Late Iron Age cremation cemetery, Parish Field, Aylesford
24	Iron Age	MKE2066	Belgic bronze torc found at Aylesford
25	Iron Age	MKE75987	Iron Age copper alloy coin
26	Iron Age	EKE3950	Belgic Cemetery
27	Iron Age	MKE75923	Iron Age copper alloy terret ring
28	Roman	MKE2046	Romano-British burial, Aylesford
29	Roman	MKE2075	Romano-British coin found at Aylesford
30	Roman	MKE2117	Romano-British Coin found 1970, Aylesford
31	Roman	MKE75916	Roman copper alloy pendant
32	Anglo-Saxon	MKE2038	Saxon bronze buckle, Rochester Road, Aylesford
33	Anglo-Saxon	MKE2087	Bronze brooch found in 1985 at Aylesford
34	Medieval	MKE2044	Aylesford bridge

No	Date	MonUID	Name
35	Medieval	MKE41638	Medieval wall foundations and features with Late Iron Age, Roman Medieval and post-Medieval pottery sherds and other Medieval small finds
36	Medieval	MKE15333	Revetment on River Medway, Aylesford
37	Medieval	DKE19203	Aylesford Bridge, Scheduled Monument
38	Medieval	MKE75928	Medieval tin or tin alloy buckle frame
39	Medieval/Post-Medieval	MKE56645	The Friars, Aylesford
40	Post-medieval	MKE16806	Aylesford Quarry
41	Post-medieval	MKE18189	Site of Aylesford Quarry
42	Post-medieval	MKE90885	A sand mine, 32 Mount Pleasant, Aylesford
43	Post-medieval	MKE75901	Post Medieval silver coin
44	Post-Medieval	MKE44056	Maidstone and Strood Railway
45	Post-Medieval	MKE44114	River Medway navigation
46	Post-medieval	MKE75929	Post Medieval copper alloy finial
47	Post-medieval	MKE75949	Post-Medieval copper alloy buckle
48	Undated	MKE75935	Unknown copper alloy unidentified object
49	Undated	MKE75914	lead token
50	Undated	MKE75915	lead token
51	Undated	MKE75919	copper alloy ring
52	-	EKE5098	Excavations at St. Peter's C of E School Annexe at the Old Vicarage
53	-	EKE9002	Watching Brief at St Peter's CE Primary School, Aylesford
54	-	EKE11542	Watching brief at St. Peter's School, Aylesford
55	-	EKE13132	Survey of a sand mine, 32 Mount Pleasant, Aylesford
56	-	EKE5246	Watching Brief of River Defences Work on the Medway at Aylesford
57	-	EKE9483	Aylesford General, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project review of existing information
58	-	EKE9484	Aylesford General, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project review of existing information
59	-	EKE9488	Aylesford General, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project review of existing information
60	-	EKE9575	Silas Wagon's Pit, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project review of existing information
61	-	EKE9489	Aylesford General, Medway Valley Palaeolithic Project review of existing information
62	-	EKE9002	Watching Brief at St Peter's CE Primary School, Aylesford
63	-	EKE10636	Watching brief at St. Peter's School, Aylesford
64	-	EKE9966	Evaluation on land at 488 Station Road, Aylesford

## HER Summary

<b>Site code</b>	HRA 16					
<b>Project code</b>	171051					
<b>Planning reference</b>	Permitted Development					
<b>Site address</b>	Hall Road, Aylesford					
<b>District/Borough</b>	Tonbridge and Malling					
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	572984 158885					
<b>Geology</b>	Alluvium					
<b>Fieldwork type</b>	Eval	Excav	WB ✓	HBR	Survey	Other
<b>Date of fieldwork</b>	December 2016 and November 2017					
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	MGJV on behalf of Southern Water					
<b>Project manager</b>	Neil Griffin					
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Simon Stevens					
<b>Period summary</b>						
<b>Project summary</b>	<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by MGJV on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on the western bank of the River Medway, Hall Road, Aylesford, Kent.</i></p> <p><i>No significant geoarchaeological, or archaeological, deposits were encountered during the monitoring of limited groundworks, which succeeded in the project aim of identifying the alignment of an existing pipe.</i></p>					

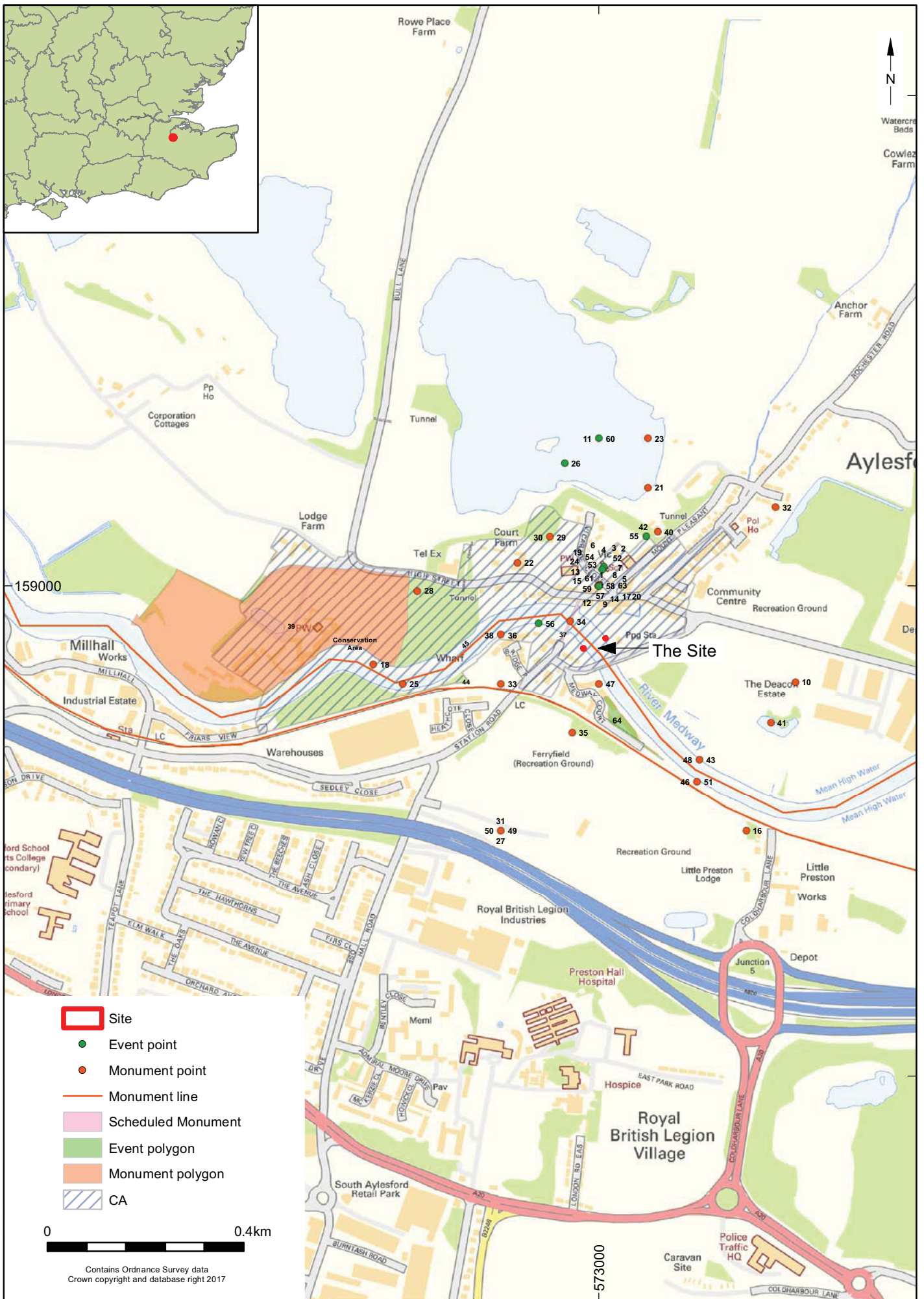
## OASIS Form

### OASIS ID: archaeol6-302798

#### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Hall Road, Aylesford, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by MGJV on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks on the western bank of the River Medway, Hall Road, Aylesford, Kent. No significant geoarchaeological, or archaeological, deposits were encountered during the monitoring of limited groundworks, which succeeded in the project aim of identifying the alignment of an existing pipe.
Project dates	Start: 01-12-2016 End: 10-11-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	171051 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HRA 16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING AYLESFORD Hall Road, Aylesford
Postcode	ME20 7AX
Study area	10 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 72984 58885 51.302213001879 0.481792207185 51 18 07 N 000 28 54 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	MGJV on behalf of Southern Water
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Digital Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Text","Images raster / digital photography"
Paper Archive recipient	MAIDSTONE MUSEUM
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Unpublished Text"
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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© Archaeology South-East		Hall Road, Aylesford		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 171051	December 2017	Site location		
Report Ref: 2017514	Drawn by: JLR/NH			





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Hall Road, Aylesford

• Archaeology South-East

Project Ref: 171051	December 2017
Report Ref: 2017514	Drawn by: NH

Fig. 2

Location of monitored areas

Section of slit trench

Test-hole, looking west

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