

**An Archaeological Watching Brief, Between Crockham Hill
and Chartwell House, Nr.
Westerham, Kent.**

Sewer Requisition and Pipeline for Southern Water Ltd.

TQ 442 506 to TQ 454 518

Project No. 2654

By

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Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the Field Archaeology Unit, University College London, one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted world-wide, the Field Archaeology Unit retains a special interest in South-East England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Hampshire, Surrey, Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Based in the local community, the Field Archaeology Unit sees an important part of its work as explaining the results to the broader public. Public lectures, open days, training courses and liaison with local archaeological societies are aspects of its community-based approach.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England the Unit can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavations associated with the construction of a new foul sewer and pumping station, situated between Crockham hill and Chartwell House, near Westerham, Kent. The pipeline was approximately 2.25 km running east – west from TQ 454518 to TQ 442506. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.

CONTENTS

- 1 Introduction**
- 2 Background**
- 3 Archaeological Methodology**
- 4 Results**
- 5. Interpretation and Conclusion**
- 6. Bibliography**

SMR Summary Sheet

Fig. 1: Site Location

Fig. 2: Site Plan – Crockham to Chartwell Pipeline

Fig. 3: Site Plan – Chartwell House

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit (UCLFAU), was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the construction of a new foul sewer and pumping station. Situated between Crockham hill and Chartwell House, near Westerham, Kent, the length of the pipeline was approximately 2.25 km running east – west from TQ 454518 to TQ 442506 (Figure 1).
- 1.2 An archaeological desk based assessment of the pipeline route was undertaken in April 2006 (CgMs Consulting 2006). This report indicated that the pipeline might impact upon significant archaeological remains, particularly within the grounds of the Chartwell Estate. The Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council and the Territory Archaeologist for the National Trust therefore required an archaeological watching brief to take place during the excavation of groundworks associated with the scheme.
- 1.3 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundworks to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.
- 1.4 A Written Scheme of Investigation for these works was developed by Steven Weaver of CgMs and approved by the Archaeological Officer for Kent County Council and Territorial Archaeologist for the National Trust.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Paul Riccoboni, Jon Sygrave, Andrew Margetts, Deon Whittaker, Michelle Collins during eleven visits from October 2nd 2006 to January 8th 2007. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post Excavation Manager).

2 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief (Weaver 2006) outlined the archaeological and historic background of the site. A brief summary of this information is given here, with due acknowledgement, for a fuller description, the Specification should be referred to.
- 2.2 The pipeline route lies predominantly along the Greensand Ridge of the Kent Downs, at between 125mOD and 203mOD. The underlying geology within the route of the pipeline is Cretaceous Lower Greensand. There are deposits of Atherfield Clay situated at the western and eastern extents of the route, overlain by Hythe Beds running from the B2026, across Mariners Hill and along Mapleton Road (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1990, Sheet 287).

- 2.3 There were no known archaeological remains identified on the SMR, although the eastern extent of the pipeline route is situated within the grounds of Chartwell House, a Registered Historic Park and Garden, listed Grade II* and the former residence of Sir Winston Churchill. In the vicinity, though not within pipeline route, there is evidence from the Prehistoric, Roman, Medieval and Post-Medieval periods. 1km to the north west of the pipeline route is the earthwork remains of Squerries Park Camp, an Iron Age univallate hillfort and Scheduled Ancient Monument (Kent No. 75) and 900m west is the projected line of the London to Lewes Roman Road. There is no known evidence from the Saxon / Early Medieval Periods in the vicinity and there is limited potential for Medieval - Post Medieval settlement remains in the area of the pipeline.
- 2.4 In summary, the archaeological potential of the pipeline route was as follows: low-moderate potential to impact upon archaeological remains dating to the Iron Age and Medieval periods and a low potential identified for all other periods. In addition, the works would also impact upon an area situated within the grounds of Chartwell House, a Registered Historic Park and Garden, listed Grade II*

3 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The general aim of the fieldwork was to record and analyse any archaeological remains revealed in the course of all works that disturbed the ground, below current ground level, during development.
- 3.2 The construction of Mapleton Road and the B2026 is likely to have truncated any archaeological remains in their immediate vicinity. Given this previous impact there was a low potential for significant archaeological remains (Weaver 2006) (Figure 2). Consequently, and with agreement with KCC Archaeological Officer and the Territory Archaeologist for the National Trust, archaeological monitoring along this section of the pipeline works was implemented on an intermittent basis. This monitoring comprised of the stripping of topsoil and subsoil/made ground for the service trench and directional drilling pits undertaken beneath identified historic field boundaries.
- 3.3 Due to the higher archaeological potential (Weaver 2006), constant archaeological monitoring was undertaken within the grounds of Chartwell House during the groundworks for the new pumping station and a section of the pipeline (Figure 3). These groundworks entailed the stripping of topsoil and subsoil/made ground for the pumping station and pipe trench.
- 3.4 The groundworks associated with the construction of the service trench and pumping station were undertaken by a mechanical excavator fitted with a wide blade toothless ditching bucket. Occasionally, a toothed ditching bucket was used to remove hard materials. The mechanical excavator was only used to remove non-archaeologically significant material until archaeological features, layers or to the top of the natural geology was

exposed.

- 3.5 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard UCLFAU practice. Where practicable, all features were planned at 1:20 and section drawings were drawn at 1:10. Drawings were done on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by UCLFAU with particular attention being made to height below ground level. A full photographic record was kept of the work.

4 RESULTS

Context Numbers are shown in square brackets: [xxx]

4.1 *Mariners Hill Pipeline (Figure 2)*

A directional drilling pit (DDP1 - Figure 2) was excavated. Due to severe waterlogging, the contexts could not be examined in situ and were instead based on examining the removed, excavated materials. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recovered. The pit measured 2 m x 1m with a depth of 1m . The stratigraphic sequence revealed was:

- [01] friable, dark brown humic, silty clay , 150mm in depth. Topsoil.
- [02] mixed, friable medium brown clayey silt, 200 – 300mm thick. Occasional sandstone fragments. Subsoil.
- [03] friable, mid orange – brown clayey silt/sand. Natural substrate.

4.2 *Chartwell House Pumping Station Groundworks (Figure 3)*

An initial topsoil strip was observed (Figure 3, Trench 2) in the footprint of the Pumping House. The topsoil strip uncovered approximately 6 metres by 25 metres of subsoil. A 4-metre square excavation was then made for the pumping station connection to the pipe trench. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recovered. The stratigraphic sequence revealed was:

- [14] dark grey silty clay, 200mm thick, no inclusions. Topsoil
- [15] mid brown clayey silt, 200mm thick, no inclusions. Subsoil
- [16] mid brown to mid orange – brown, mixed clays and silt. Natural substrate.

4.3 *Pipeline on Hosey Common Road (Figure 2)*

Fifteen pipe drilling pits (2m x 1m, 1m deep) were excavated along Hosey Common Road (Figure 2, Stage 1 and 2). No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recovered. The stratigraphic sequence revealed was:

- [17] Tarmac, 200mm thick.
- [18] Made ground / tarmac base, 200 - 300mm thick

[19] mid orange – brown sand. Natural substrate.

- 4.1 *Pipe Trench at the Entrance to Chartwell House (Figure 3- Trench 1)*
Incorporating both the grass verge and the tarmac road a trench was excavated approximately 10 metres long and 800mm deep, curving along the main entrance to Chartwell House terminating in an excavation approximately 2.5 metres by 3 metres. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were recovered. The stratigraphic sequence revealed was:

Grass verge:

- [11] dark grey, 200mm thick, no inclusions. Topsoil.
- [12] medium brown clayey silt, 200mm thick. Subsoil.
- [13] deposit - mid brown to mid orange – brown, mottled mid blue – grey, mixed clays and silt. Natural substrate.

Tarmac:

- [04] black tarmac, compact 100mm
- [05] road base / made ground, 1
- [10] natural orange - brown clayey silt. Natural substrate.

5 Interpretation and Conclusion

- 5.1 The underlying geology encountered during the course of the groundworks consisted of mixed clays/clay silts likely to be deposits of Atherfield Clay situated at the western and eastern extents of the route. The more sandy deposits encountered running from the B2026, across Mariners Hill and along Mapleton Road probably relate to the Hythe Beds (Geological Survey of Great Britain 1990, Sheet 287).
- 5.2 No archaeological remains were uncovered during the monitoring of ground works and excavations on the pipeline route and at Chartwell House and no unstratified artefacts were recovered. These results are broadly in keeping with the assessment made of the archaeological potential in the Desk Based Assessment (Weaver 2006). This suggests that there is a fairly low chance of a significant archaeological remains being present in the vicinity of the groundworks.

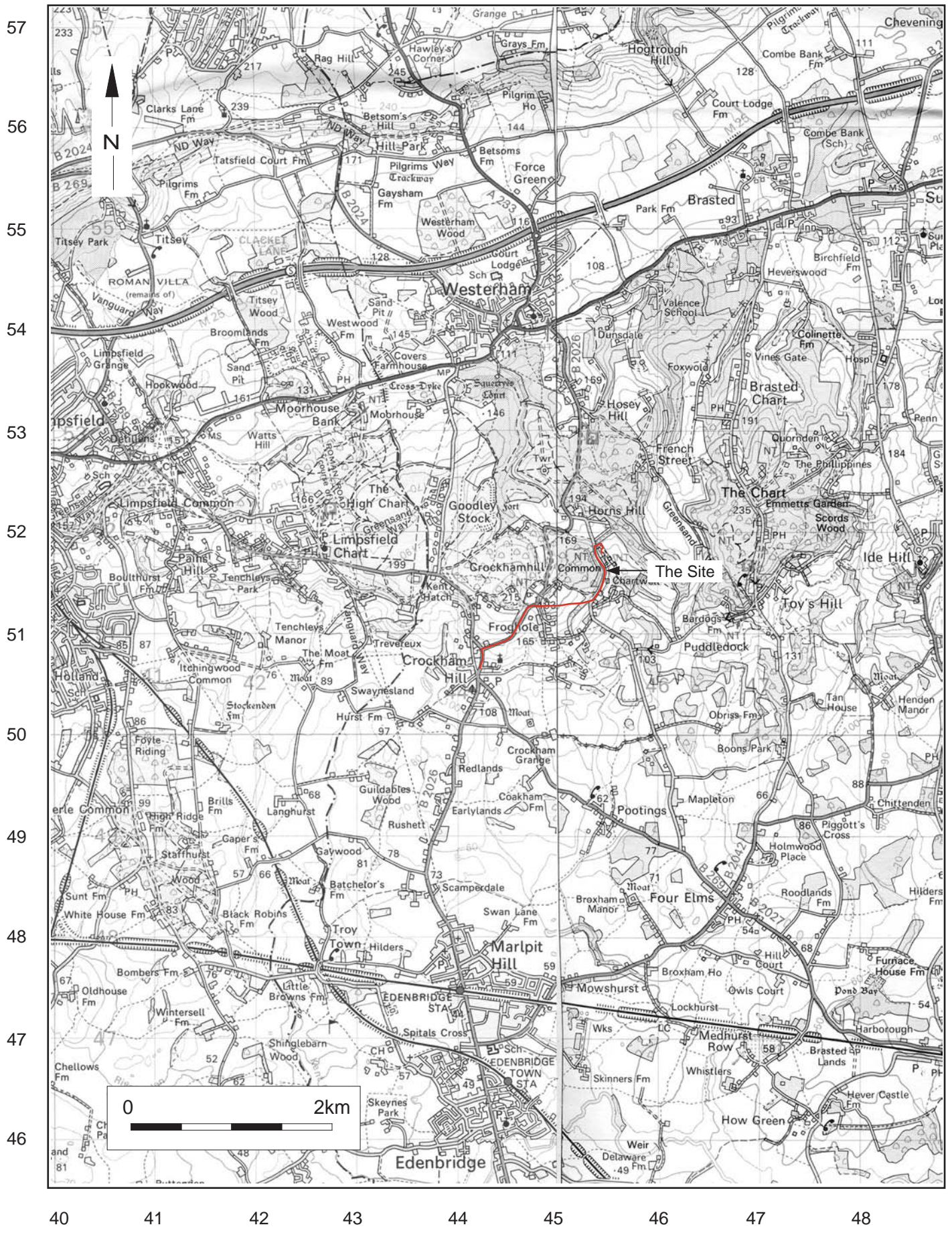
6. Bibliography

CGMS Consulting, 2006 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment: S98 Sewer Requisition, Chartwell House, Westerham, Kent.

Weaver, S. 2006. Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief S98 Sewer Requisition, Chartwell House, Westerham, Kent. CgMs Consulting Ltd. Unpublished Report.

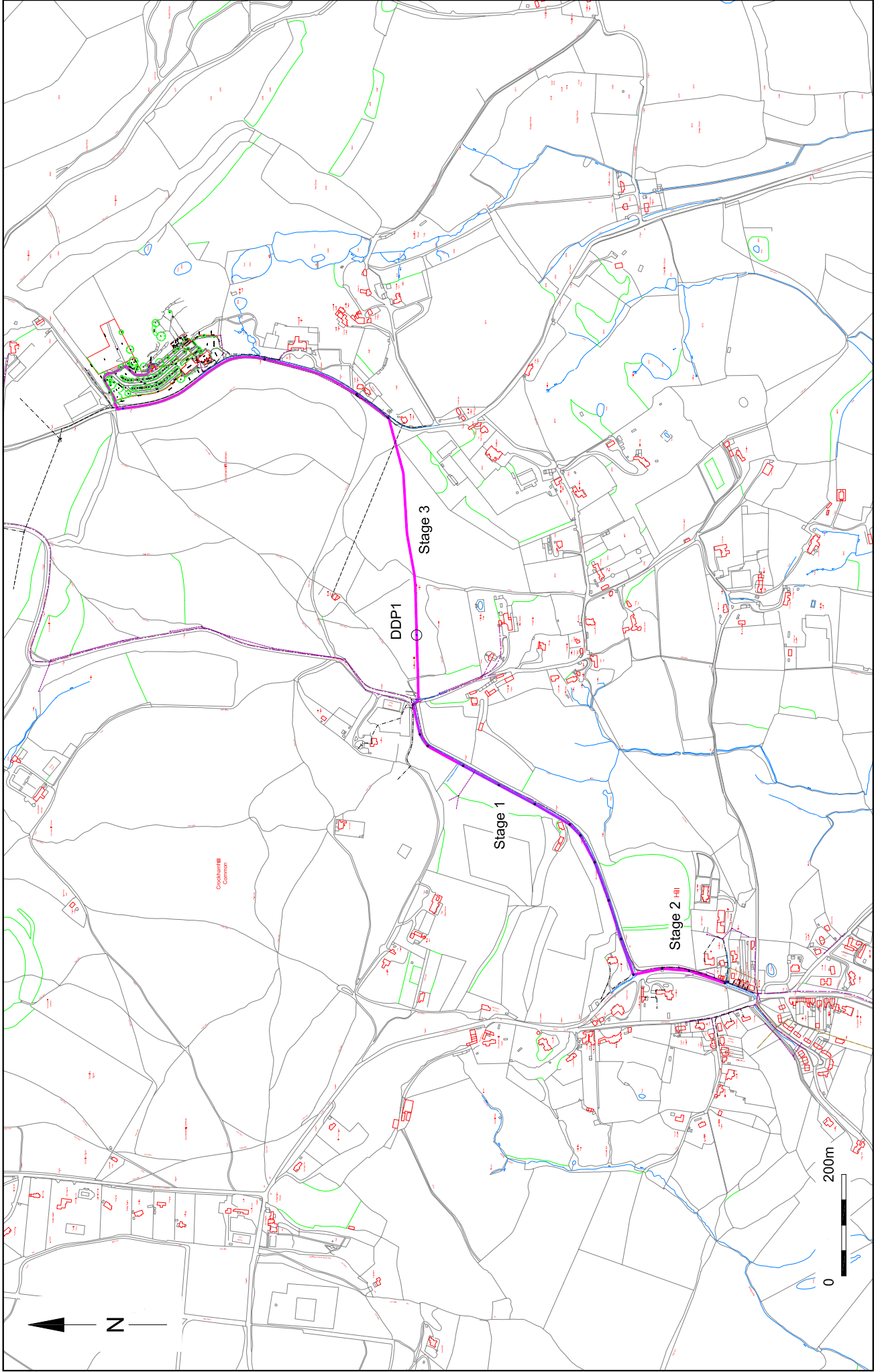
SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CHH06					
Identification Name and Address	Chartwell House , nr Westerham, Kent					
County, District &/or Borough	Westerham, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 454518 to TQ 442506					
Geology	Atherfield Clay & Hythe Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2654					
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. 2 nd Oct 06 – 7 th Feb 07	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Southern Water					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin and Louise Rayner					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was undertaken during excavations associated with the construction of a new foul sewer and pumping station, situated between Crockham hill and Chartwell House, near Westerham, Kent. The pipeline was approximately 2.25 km running east – west from TQ 454518 to TQ 442506. No archaeological features were identified and no artefacts were recovered.</i></p>						

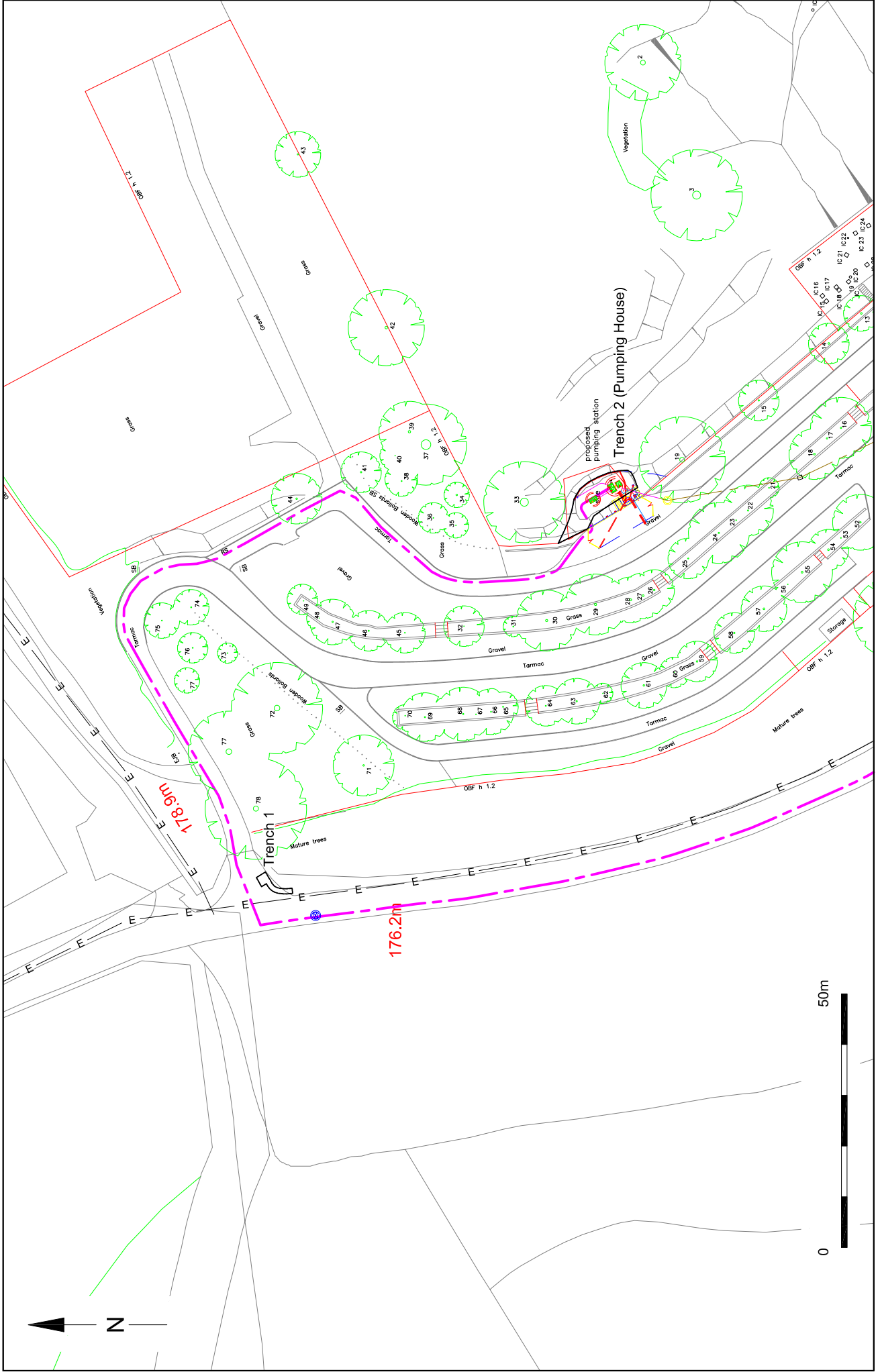


© Archaeology South-East			Crockham-Chartwell Pipeline		Fig. 1
Ref: 2654	April 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site Location Plan		

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© Archaeology South-East		Crockham-Chartwell Pipeline	
Ref: 2654	April 2007	Pipeline Route (Mariner's Hill)	
Drawn by: JLR		Fig. 2	



© Archaeology South-East		Crockham-Chartwell Pipeline	
Ref: 2654	April 2007	Trench 1 and Trench 2 (Chartwell House)	
Drawn by: JLR			

Fig. 3