

**An Archaeological Watching Brief
On Land at Cannon Lane, Tonbridge**

(NGR 559612 146783)

**Project No. 2801
Site code: CLT07
ASE Report No.: 2007183
OASIS ID: archaeol6-35480**

By

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Summary

A watching brief was maintained by Archaeology South-East during the excavation of an outfall trench at Cannon Lane, Tonbridge (NGR559612 146783) by 4D Ltd. The trench measured 1.60m wide by 2.50m deep and was excavated for a length of approximately 70 metres. Despite its proximity to the location of a known Post-Medieval Mill no archaeological finds or features were revealed during the programme of archaeological monitoring. Evidence of substantial modern disturbance was encountered.

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SMR Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

Fig. 1: Site Location

Fig. 2: Site Plan (showing monitored groundwork)

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Field Archaeology Unit, was commissioned by 4D Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundwork to construct a new outfall pipe (NGR 559612 146783) (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The site is located within the footpath and roadway at Cannon Lane, Tonbridge, Kent (Fig. 1).
- 1.3 Planning Permission was granted by Kent County Council to upgrade and refurbish an existing Combined Sewer Overflow (CSO) at Cannon Lane, Tonbridge, Kent. This work was carried out by 4D Ltd. on Southern Water Services assets.
- 1.4 The groundwork consisted of the excavation of a trench for a storm water outfall pipe and screen chamber, which follows the line of Mill Stream. This trench was approximately 2m deep by 1.2m wide and c70m long.
- 1.5 4D Ltd. is committed to achieving the completion of all schemes with high regard to local heritage and environmental issues. As part of this commitment consultation with the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council, was undertaken.
- 1.6 Due to the archaeological potential of the site, the Heritage Conservation Unit advised that a programme of archaeological work would be appropriate to ensure that features of archaeological interest were properly examined and recorded. The recommended programme was in the form of a watching brief on the groundworks associated with the upgrading works.
- 1.7 A Specification outlining the requirements was prepared by the Heritage Conservation Group. This required a watching brief to be maintained through out the programme of ground excavation.
- 1.8 The topography of the site is flat. The British Geological Survey map Sheet 287 (Area Sevenoaks) Solid and Drift Edition (1:50,000 scale) indicates that the site lies on the alluvial silts of the Medway valley.
- 1.9 The fieldwork was undertaken by Deon Whittaker and Alice Thorne during March 2007. The project was managed by Diccon Hart (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Specification (KCC 2007) outlined the archaeological potential of the site with regard to the archaeological remains recorded in the SMR. This information is summarised here with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2 The site lies in an area of water channels, leats and ponds associated with the diversion of water from the River Medway for corn mills. There is a corn mill recorded at this site on the first edition OS map of 1880, known as Town Mills. In addition there is urban development bordering the north west of the site at this time. It was thought that structural remains associated with this building may have been uncovered during the excavation of the outfall trench.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL OBJECTIVES AND METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The objectives of the archaeological watching brief were to contribute to the knowledge of the area through the recording of any archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundwork. Particular attention was to be made to the character, height below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded according to accepted professional standards in accordance with the Specification using standard Archaeology South-East context record sheets.
- 3.3 The groundwork comprised the excavation of the outfall trench. This was approximately 1.60 m in width by 2.50m in depth. It was approximately 70m in length with the screen chamber overflow outletting at the Mill Stream. In addition an adjoining manhole chamber was monitored at the southwest extent of the main trench run.
- 3.4 Excavations were undertaken with a flat blade bucket, and the spoil from the excavations was inspected to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.
- 3.5 Due to the depth of the trenches, the instability of the made ground deposits encountered on site and the presence of contaminated ground resulting from the storm water outlet into the mill stream, the recording of the site was undertaken with additional caution. Consequently, this limited detailed recording of excavations greater than 1.00m in depth.

- 3.6 A full photographic record of the work was kept (black and white prints, colour slides and digital images) and will form part of the site archive. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade and will be offered to a suitable local museum.

4.0 RESULTS

Context numbers are given in square brackets: e.g. [12]

4.1 Outfall Trench (Monitored Area 1, Fig.2)

- 4.1.1 The trench was excavated in the roadway immediately to the south-east of the Mill Stream. The ground surface ranged between 21.46m OD at the south western extent and 20.85m OD at the north eastern extent of the trench. The stratigraphic sequence observed during the excavation of this trench was as follows (latest to earliest):

- The main bulk of the road build up consisted of approximately 300mm of the tarmac road surfacing overlying a 250mm thick deposit of Type 1 hardcore. Below this a 0.45m thick deposit of mid greyish brown silty clay overlying a layer of Terram geotextile.
- Below this was context [11], an approximately 800-1000mm thick, mixed layer, of dark greyish brown silty clay containing lenses of crushed chalk, fragments of tar, clinker, brick and modern ceramics. This deposit contained frequent large loose pockets of brick rubble backfill, and also abutted a reinforced concrete and brick structure approximately 1.10m wide and 1.00m deep at 1.60m below the surface of the pavement.
- Located below context [11] and the brick and concrete structure was a 250mm thick layer of concrete, context [13].
- This overlay a mid to dark greyish brown alluvial silt, context [12], encountered at a depth of 1.80m below the road surface to the base of the trench.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.2 Outfall Trench to Mill Stream (screen chamber overflow) (Monitored Area 2, Fig.2)

- 4.2.1 The stretch of trench outletting at the Mill Stream was also monitored. This was located at the north eastern stretch of the main course of the trench run at approximately 20.80m OD. The stratigraphic sequence observed was as follows (latest to earliest):

- Context [8] was a bank deposit consisting of a dark greyish brown clayey alluvial silt with frequent rooting, leaf mulch, brick, plastic and wire. This deposit is likely to result from flooding and dredging of the stream.
- Beneath context [8] was a yellowish grey concrete banking to the stream, up to 900mm thick, context [9].
- Context [9] was broken through to reveal an orange brown alluvial silt containing grey–brown mottling and smears, context [10], at the very base of the trench. This occurred at a depth of approximately 1.80m below the surface of the road.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

4.3 Manhole Chamber (Fig.2)

4.3.1 A manhole chamber was monitored to the south west of the outlet trench, located at approximately 21.50m OD. The stratigraphic sequence observed in this was as follows:

- A 300mm layer of tarmac, context [7].
- Beneath context [7] was a 300mm dark greyish brown mixed deposit of made ground, including Type 2 aggregate and tarmac, context [6].
- Below this was a 150mm thick compact layer of Type 1 aggregate, context [5].
- Below this was a black friable silt deposit, context [4] This included modern brick and sandstone fragments.
- Below this was a firm, 200mm thick, pinkish orange deposit of coarse sand and Type 1 aggregate, context [3].
- This overlay context [2], a 1130mm thick deposit of dark greyish brown loose sandy silt, which contained modern ceramic building material demolition debris. A concrete pipe and a rendered grey concrete structure, context [1], were noted below this at the base of the pit.

No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were present.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The watching brief was problematic because of the depth of the trench and the unstable nature of the deposits in this area. However, monitoring and recording was possible and the watching brief has provided evidence of substantial disturbance on site, and in particular evidence of modern build up of the ground in this area.

- 5.2 Within the run of the trench, approximately 1.00m of road material was located above a layer of terram Geotextile. The depth of the road surfacing may have been necessary to compensate for the lack of a stable underlying geology in this area. Below this was an approximately 1m thick mixed and disturbed modern deposit containing loose pockets of demolition material (context 11). The concrete and brick remains located in Monitored Area 1 may relate to wall foundations of a garage purported to have been situated on site. Context 11 may have been related to this structures demolition. The natural alluvial silts were encountered at a depth of approximately 2.30m below the road surface, at approximately 19.25m OD.
- 5.3 Within the area of the manhole chamber, road build up layers were uncovered to a depth of approximately 1.20metres. Below this, context 2, a modern deposit, was exposed at the base of the trench at approximately 19.20m OD. Context 2 is also likely to be related to demolition activity on site.
- 5.4 Within the area of the outlet to the mill stream, Monitored Area 2, the natural alluvial silts were encountered below a modern layer of concrete at a depth of 1.80m below the road surface (approximately 19mOD).
- 5.5 No archaeological finds or features were encountered during the programme of watching brief, and no evidence of the Post Medieval mill was revealed. All structural remains encountered towards the base of the trench related to modern concrete drainage structures and backfill from earlier demolition.

6.0 REFERENCES

Heritage Conservation Group, KCC, 2007, Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief at Cannon Mill, Tonbridge.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CLT07					
Identification Name and Address	Cannon Lane, Tonbridge					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	(NGR 559612 146783)					
Geology	Alluvium					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2801					
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 2007	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Southern Water/ 4D					
Project Manager	Diccon Hart					
Project Supervisor	Alice Thorne, Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of an outfall trench at Cannon Lane, Tonbridge (NGR 559612 146783). The trench measured 1.60m wide by 2.50m deep and was excavated for a length of approximately 70 metres. Despite its proximity to the location of a known Post- Medieval Mill no archaeological finds or features were revealed during the programme of archaeological monitoring. Evidence of substantial modern disturbance was encountered.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeol6-35480

Project details

Project name	Cannon Lane Tonbridge
Short description of the project	A watching brief was maintained during the excavation of an outfall trench at Cannon Lane, Tonbridge (NGR 559612 146783). The trench measured 1.60m wide by 2.50m deep and was excavated for a length of approximately 70 metres. Despite its proximity to the location of a known Post- Medieval Mill no archaeological finds or features were revealed during the programme of archaeological monitoring. Evidence of substantial modern disturbance was encountered.
Project dates	Start: 01-03-2007 End: 30-03-2007
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT TONBRIDGE AND MALLING TONBRIDGE Cannon Lane
Postcode	TN9 1
Study area	200.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 596 468 51.1975439837 0.284553631752 51 11 51 N 000 17 04 E Point
Height OD	Min: 19.00m Max: 20.66m

Project creators

Organisation	Archaeology South East
brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project originator	Archaeology South-East
Project manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Alice Thorne
funding body	Developer
funding body	4D development

Project archives

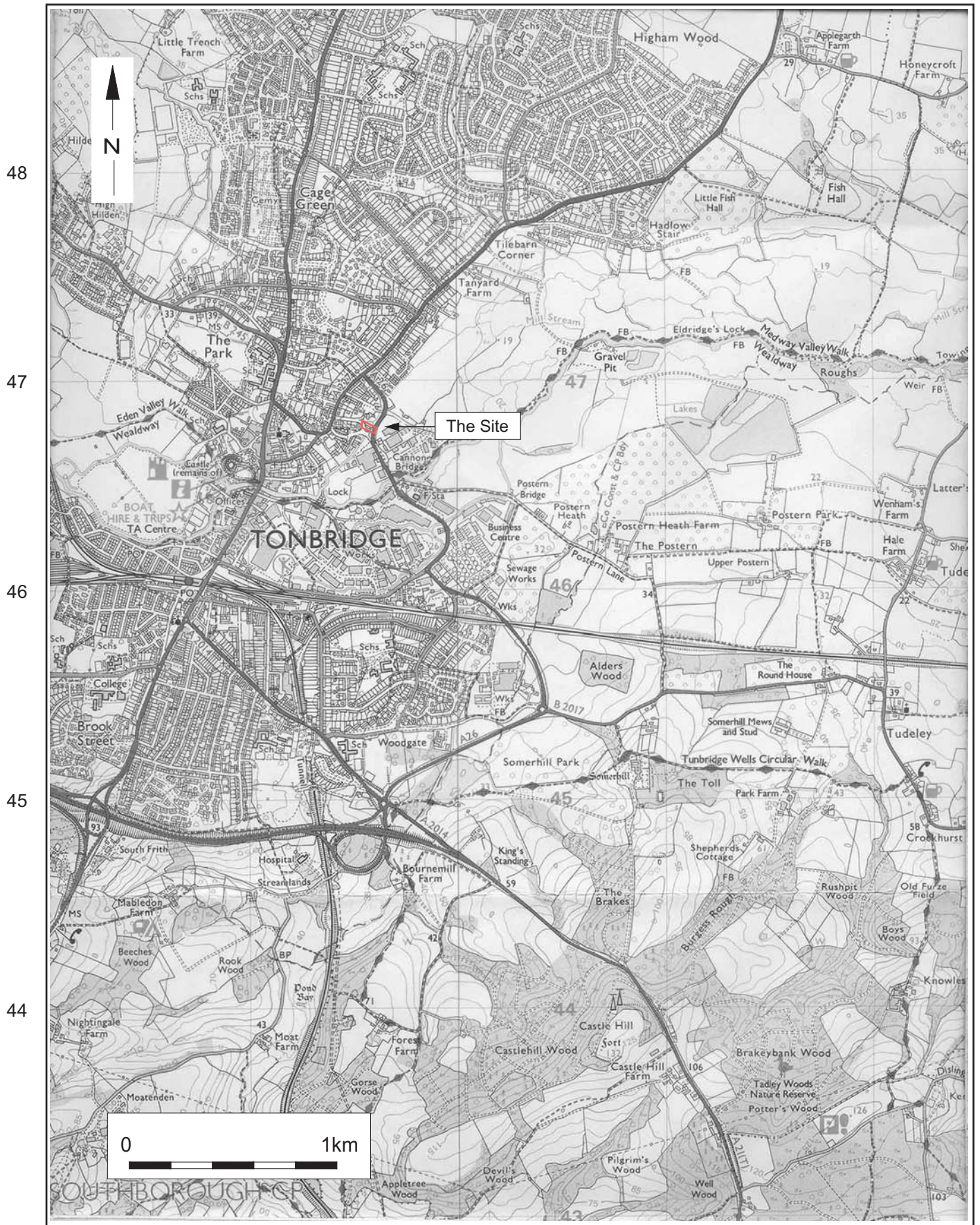
Physical Archive	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum

Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media	'Context sheet', 'Plan', 'Report'

Project bibliography 1

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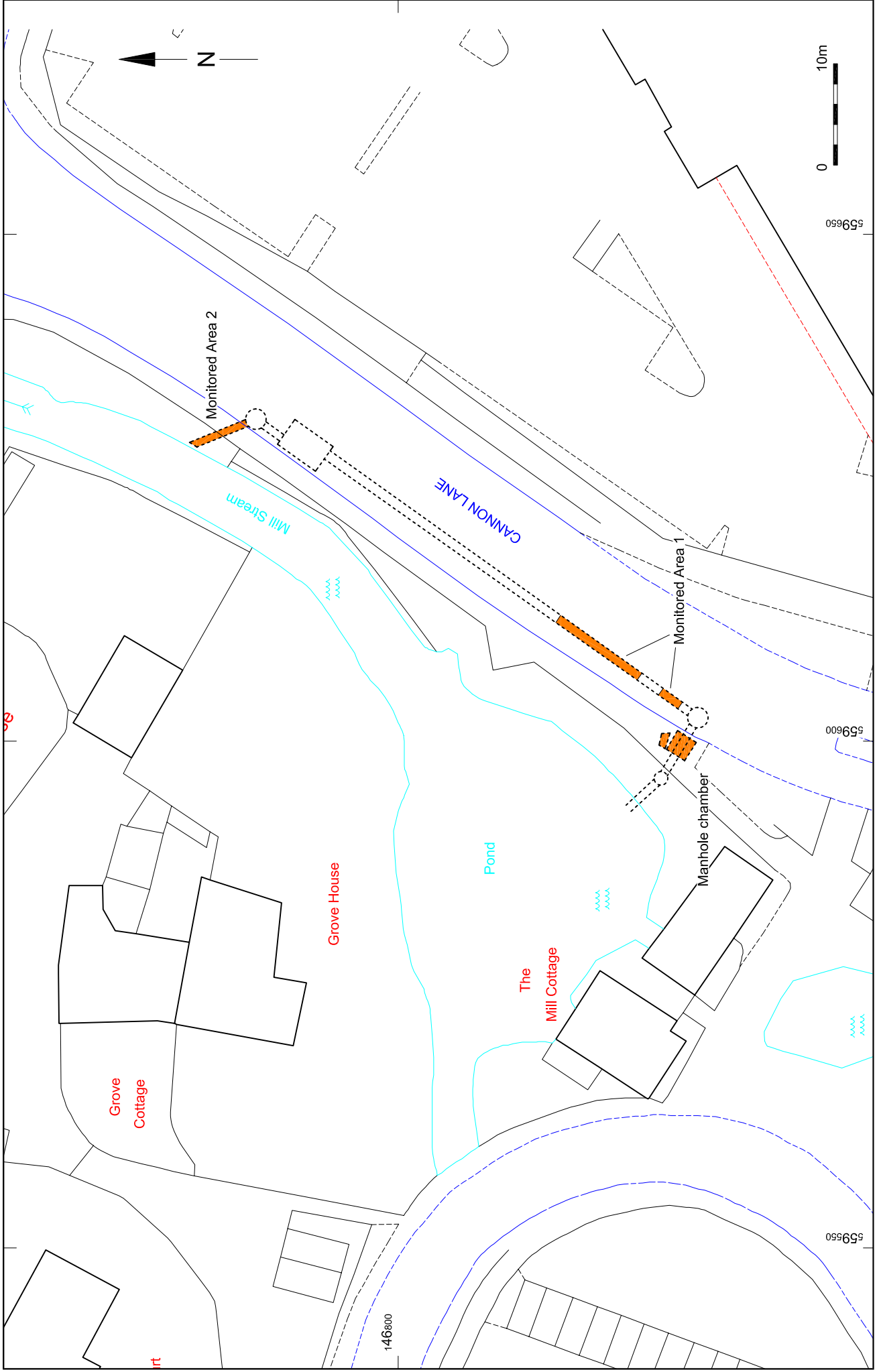
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© Archaeology South-East			Cannon Lane, Tonbridge	Fig. 1
Ref: 2801	Nov 2007	Drawn by: JNC	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East		Cannon Lane, Tonbridge		Fig. 2
Ref: 2801	Dec 2007	Drawn by: JLR	Site plan showing monitored ground work	