Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Camber Wastewater Treatment Works, Camber, East Sussex

ROTHER: Camber
NGR TQ 98853 18539

Project No. 2795
Site Code: CTW 07

ASE Report No. 2008135
OASIS id: archaeol6-47679

by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA
and
Robert Beck

With contributions by
Trista Clifford and Gemma Driver

January 2009

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Camber Wastewater Treatment Works, Camber, East Sussex

ROTHER: Camber
NGR TQ 98853 18539

Project No. 2795
Site Code: CTW 07

ASE Report No. 2008135
OASIS id: archaeol6-47679

by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA
and
Robert Beck

With contributions by
Trista Clifford and Gemma Driver

January 2009

Archaeology South-East
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex
BN41 1DR

Tel: 01273 426830
Fax: 01273 420866
Email: fau@ucl.ac.uk

Abstract

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the upgrading of Camber Wastewater Treatment Works was undertaken between March 2007 and August 2008. This included limited work at Broomhill Farm. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded at either location.

CONTENTS

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) was commissioned by 4Delivery Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for upgrading the Camber Wastewater Treatment Works, Camber, East Sussex (NGR TQ 98853 18539; Fig 1). Additional monitoring was also undertaken at the request of 4Delivery at Broomhill Farm (NGR TQ 97940 18545; Fig. 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The wastewater treatment works occupies a flat, low-lying position to the north of the A259 coast road, surrounded by open fields. Broomhill Farm has a similar aspect.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 320/321, Hastings & Dungeness) the underlying geology at the site is alluvium, with deposits of sand to the east, north and west, forming the underlying geology at Broomhill Farm.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Groundworks associated with refurbishment and upgrading at the site required planning permission through ESCC and was granted (RR/501/CM) with an archaeological condition.

3. Construction of the kiosk hereby permitted shall not commence until details of an archaeological watching brief has been submitted to and approved in writing by the Director of Transport and Environment. The approved archaeological watching brief shall be maintained on all groundworks by a qualified archaeological contractor.

Reason: To ensure that any archaeological deposits and features disturbed during the proposed works are adequately recorded, and to comply with Policy EN22 of the East Sussex and Brighton & Hove Structure Plan 1991-2011.

1.3.2 In view of this, 4Delivery contacted Casper Johnson, County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council, and it was agreed that the implementation of an archaeological watching brief would be required given the archaeological potential of the site (see Section **2.0** below).

1.3.3 A Written Scheme of Investigation for the archaeological work undertaken at the site was produced by Diccon Hart of ASE and accepted by Casper Johnson prior to the commencement of the groundworks. This document set out the scope of the work to be undertaken during the monitoring process (ASE 2007).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The principle objective of the archaeological work was to monitor the groundworks in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological or geoarchaeological interest exposed during groundworks at the site were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the site carried out between May 2007 and August 2008. The work was undertaken by a team comprised of Simon Stevens, David Fallon (Senior Archaeologists), Rob Beck and Deon Whittaker (Archaeologists). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The East Sussex County Council Sites and Monuments Record lists the following sites recorded within a 500m radius of the site:

SMR No. MES117	Double-ditched bank of unknown date. Survives as low earthwork.
SMR No. MES7357	Two parallel ditches of unknown date. Survive as ephemeral earthwork.
SMR No. MES7358	Double-ditched bank of unknown date. Survives in good condition.
SMR No. MES7359	Ditch of unknown date, which cuts (so is later than) MES7358.
SMR No. MES7360	Shingle bank of unknown date. Breached by modern drainage.
SMR No MES7361	Double-ditched bank of unknown date. Partially levelled earthwork.
SMR No. MES7362	Double-ditched bank of unknown date. Partially levelled.
SMR No. MES3705	Deserted Medieval Village (DMV) and remains of church (see below).

2.2 The last entry refers to an area partially occupied by the wastewater treatment works, and goes on to say that,

> *'The village of Broomhill was washed away by coastal erosion at the end of the 13th century, although the church ruins remained until the 17th century…..length of walling 12.0m long by 0.4m high composed of flints set in mortar, presumably the remains of the church but showing no architectural features. The rest of the DMV has been destroyed. …. excavation has revealed four phases of church on this site dating from the mid 13th century through to the early 15th century. A resistivity survey detected a bank and ditch encircling the north side of the building which may be the churchyard boundary. The church was already disused a hundred years later and after reclamation of the land subsequently under sea, the walls were robbed. The layer of sediment deposited by the sea's encroachment and discovered during the excavation may have been deep enough to have preserved an entire late medieval and early modern landscape from the plough.'*

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The archaeological watching brief was maintained during mechanical and manual excavation at the site associated with the instalment of new equipment and associated service diversions. Unfortunately, owing to a misunderstanding, the groundworks connected with the creation of the compound and access routes were not archaeologically monitored. However, the partial removal of part of the access road to allow the land to be returned to agriculture was monitored.

3.2 Other groundworks at the site were observed, including the stripping of areas for the instalment of new machinery, and the excavation of trenches for the diversion of buried services.

3.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded 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.

3.4 A full digital photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	14
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	-
Photographs	12 digital
Bulk finds	-
Registered finds	-
Environmental flots/residue	-

Table 1: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Camber Wastewater Treatment Works (NGR TQ 98853 18539)

4.1.1 In March 2007, initial monitoring was undertaken at the site during the stripping of an area for the installation of two new humus tank chambers at the eastern end of the site (Fig. 2). The excavation was undertaken by a 13 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a 5ft wide toothless ditching bucket. The area was stripped to depths between *c.*150mm and *c.*300mm, which was not deep enough to reveal any underlying geological deposits. The only encountered deposit was a mid-brown silty clay topsoil Context [100], which had been disturbed by the laying of services.

4.1.2 Unfortunately owing to a further misunderstanding, excavations for the physical installation of the chambers was also carried out without archaeological monitoring.

4.1.3 In October 2007, the removal of part of the former access route to the humus tank chambers was archaeologically monitored. Only 250mm of material was removed by a 13 tonne 360° excavator fitted with a 5ft wide toothless ditching bucket and none of the underlying alluvium was exposed, The upper deposit encountered was a mixture of the mid-brown silty clay topsoil seen elsewhere at the site, and discarded building materials, and 'Type 1' and 'Type 2' material and imported pea shingle (Context [101]). Over most of the area, this overlay a Terram Sheet (Context [102]), which in turn overlay mid-brown silty clay ploughsoil (Context [103]), which was not disturbed.

4.1.4 The monitoring of this work was discontinued after discussions with Casper Johnson, as there was clearly no potential for any archaeological impact.

4.1.5 The other monitoring at the site was undertaken during realignment of services. The mechanical excavation of a trench measuring 7m long by 600mm wide by 600mm deep by a 5 tonne mini-excavator was undertaken during October 2007. (Fig. 2, Trench A). No geological deposits were exposed, and the only encountered deposit was a mixture of mid-brown silty clay ploughsoil, Terram Sheet and imported pea shingle (Context [104]).

4.1.6 A further service trench was dug by the same machine in early November 2007. It was *c.*50m long, 600mm wide and a maximum of 1m deep (Fig. 2, Trench B). The encountered deposits were the disturbed soil, Context [104], which was 300mm in thickness and directly overlay Context [105], a 650mm thick orangey brown clay which appeared to be an alluvial deposit. This overlay a grey gravel (Context [106]) of unknown extent, which could not be fully recorded owing to problems with access to the trench. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

4.1.7 Further groundworks at the site were monitored during December 2007. The manual excavation of a number of test-pits to ascertain the position of buried services in advance of more service diversion was monitored (Fig 2, Trench C). Small-scale excavations to a maximum depth of 900mm confirmed the stratigraphic sequence seen during the excavation of Trench B, although the surface of the underlying gravel (Context [106]) was not reached.

4.1.8 Subsequently the mechanical excavation of the service trench (Fig. 2, Trench C) by a 5 tonne mini-excavator was monitored. The trench was *c.*140m long, 400mm wide and a maximum of 800mm deep. The stratigraphic sequence was identical to that recorded in the test-pits, and no archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

Context Number	Type	Description	Maximum Length	Maximum Width	Deposit Depth
100	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	>300mm
101	Deposit	Mixed Topsoil	-	-	*c.*350mm
102	Deposit	Terram Sheet	-	-	-
103	Deposit	Ploughsoil	-	-	unknown
104	Deposit	Mixed Ploughsoil	-	-	*c.*300mm
105	Deposit	?Alluvium	-	-	*c.*650mm
106	Deposit	Gravel	-	-	unknown

Table 2: List of Recorded Contexts - Camber WTW

4.2 Broomhill Farm (NGR TQ 97940 18545)

4.2.1 Groundworks at Broomhill Farm were monitored during August 2008. The work consisted of the stripping of a discrete area by 360° excavator equipped with a 1.8m wide toothless bucket. The area viewed formed a right-angled triangle bounded the north west by a concrete farm track, and the south west side by a concrete apron used for storing farm machinery (Fig. 3). The site was 600mm to 800mm lower than the concrete road. The ground surface sloped in a convex manner from the edge of the road to this lower level, over a distance of *c.*3m. Signs of a linear feature could be seen running parallel to the concrete road, at a distance of *c.*3m.

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Depth
01	Deposit	Topsoil	Whole site	Whole site	150mm
02	Deposit	Subsoil	-	-	150mm
03	Deposit	Marine Deposit (Natural)	-	-	Unknown
04	Generic Cut	Linear Feature	>42m	2.2m	-
05	Generic Fill	Linear Feature	>42m	2.2m	-
06	Cut	Linear Feature. Segment of generic Cut 4	-	2.2m	150mm
07	Fill	Linear Feature. Segment of generic fill 5	-	2.2m	150mm

Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts – Broomhill Farm

4.2.2 Monitoring revealed the following stratigraphic sequence: Topsoil (Context [01]) 150mm thick, consisted of medium to dark brown silty clay. Context [01] overlay subsoil, 150mm thick of medium brown silt (Context [02]). Context [02] overlay a marine deposit of medium yellow brown silt (Context [03]), which contained a few shells, some articulated, of *cardium edule* (common cockle).

4.2.3 Cut into Context [03] was a linear feature (Context [04]). A segment (Context [06]) was excavated by spade, and then by machine, in order to

examine a more substantial volume of fill. The fill (Context [07]) contained a small quantity of bone, a ferrous object and several fragments of coal, and was clearly post-medieval in origin.

4.2.4 Pipe trenches for drainage purposes were noted, aligned south west to north east, along with a 440v electrical cable trench aligned south-east to north-west. These were all known to the farmer as modern and were therefore not recorded.

4.2.5 No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 **Introduction** by Trista Clifford

5.1.1 A small collection of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Camber Water Treatment Works, Rye. The assemblage is characterised in Table 1 below:

Context	CBM	wt (g)	Bone	wt (g)	Stone	wt (g)	Fe	wt (g)
7	1	24	3	18	5	22	3	418

Table 4: Quantification of Finds

5.2 **The Assemblage** by Trista Clifford

5.2.1 Context [7] produced a small red brick fragment in a high-fired sandy fabric with occasional iron rich inclusions up to 5mm, along with four pieces of anthracite and a small fragment of coal shale. A large iron strip fragment of uncertain function and two square-headed nails with rectangular shank were also recovered. The finds are no older than 18th century in date.

5.2. The assemblage holds no potential for further work.

5.3 **The Animal Bone** by Gemma Driver

5.3.1 Context [7] produced three fragments of animal bone. All three fragments belong to a left sheep femur and include two fragments from the proximal end and one from the shaft. The bone is in fairly good condition with no surface weathering. There are no signs of butchery, disease or pathology.

6.0 DISCUSSION

6.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the groundworks archaeologically monitoring at the Camber Wastewater Treatment Works. It was unfortunate that some elements of the scheme were undertaken without monitoring, and it is possible that archaeological deposits were disturbed during this work.

6.2 The single monitoring visit to work at Broomhill Farm proved equally fruitless, and again no significant deposits, features or finds were observed.

6.3 There must be considerable doubt as to whether the linear feature (Context [04]), at only 150mm deep, can be safely interpreted as a ditch. An alternative interpretation is that the feature was caused by water runoff from the concrete road down the adjacent slope causing a natural gully. The feature is not visible on an aerial photograph taken in the 1930s.

6.4 Hence, no remains of the medieval village of Broomhill were recorded at either of the sites, perhaps supporting the view outlined above (see paragraph 2.2 above) that much of the medieval landscape is deeply buried under alluvium, and therefore protected from damage.

7.0 CONCLUSION

7.1 The implementation of an archaeological watching brief at the site was prudent given the presence of known archaeological remains in the vicinity.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2007. *Camber Water Treatment Works, Camber, East Sussex Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub. Document.

East Sussex County Council Sites and Monuments Register

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and hospitality offered by the on-site contractors is gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to by Mr Cooke of Broomhill Farm for showing Robert Beck the aerial photograph of the site.

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	CTW 07					
Identification Name and Address	Camber Wastewater Treatment Works					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	598853 118539					
Geology	Alluvium					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2795					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Oth
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other *Wastewater Treatment Works*		
Date s of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. *March 2007-August 2008*	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other *Modern*		

Summary.

Archaeological monitoring of groundworks associated with the upgrading of Camber Wastewater Treatment Works was undertaken between March 2007 and August 2008. This included limited work at Broomhill Farm. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded at either of the locations.

OASIS ID: archaeol6-47679

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Camber Wastewater Treatment Works, Camber, East Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was maintained at the site during groundworks between March 2007 and August 2008. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 12-03-2007 End: 21-09-2008
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2795 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	CTW 07 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX ROTHER CAMBER Camber Wastewater Treatment Works
Study area	1000.00 Square metres

Site coordinates	TQ 598853 118539 50.8834365379 0.273206521802 50 53 00 N 000 16 23 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 0m Max: 5.00m

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	4Delivery Ltd.

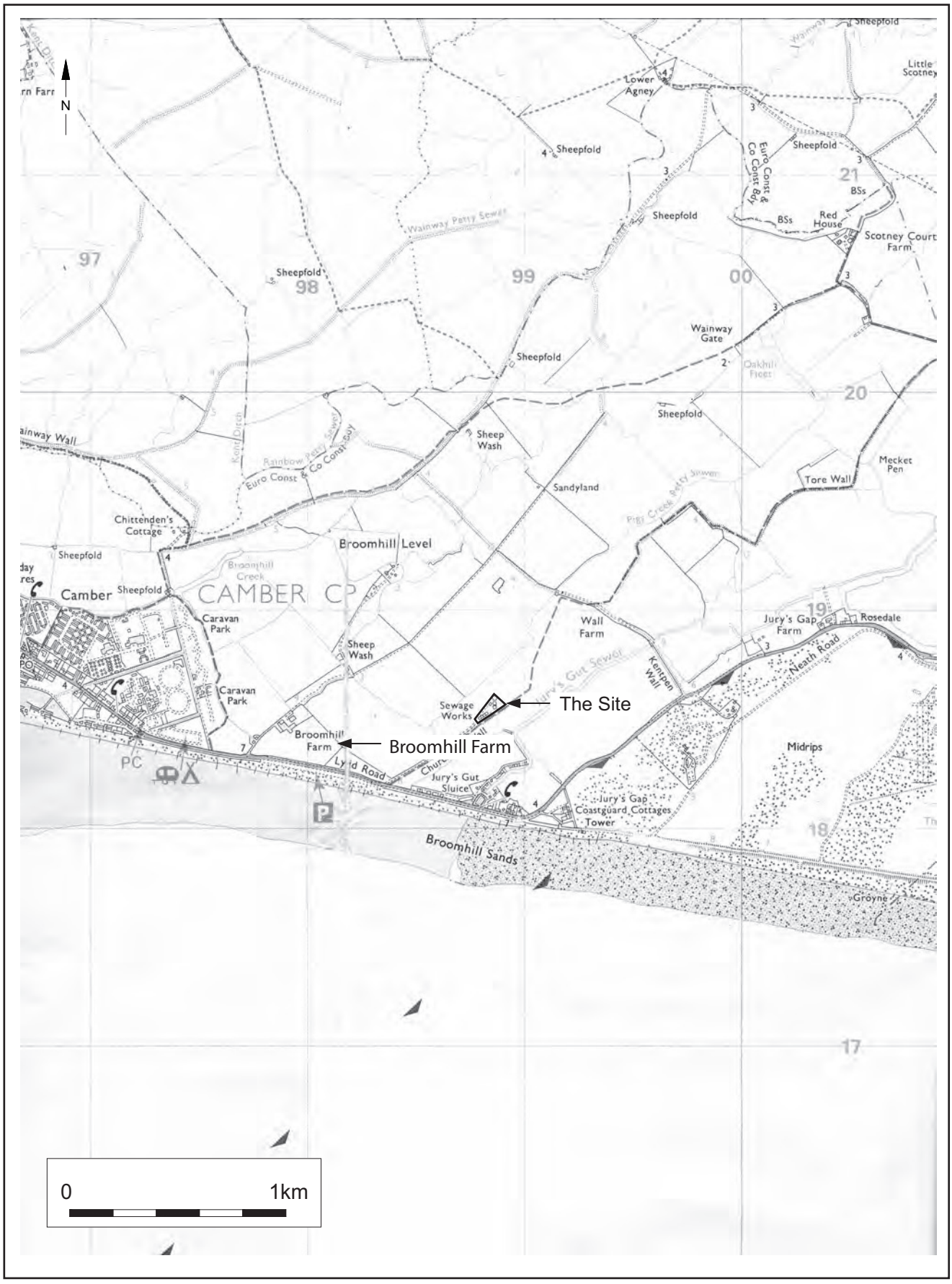
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'other'

Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes', 'Photograph', 'Plan', 'Report'

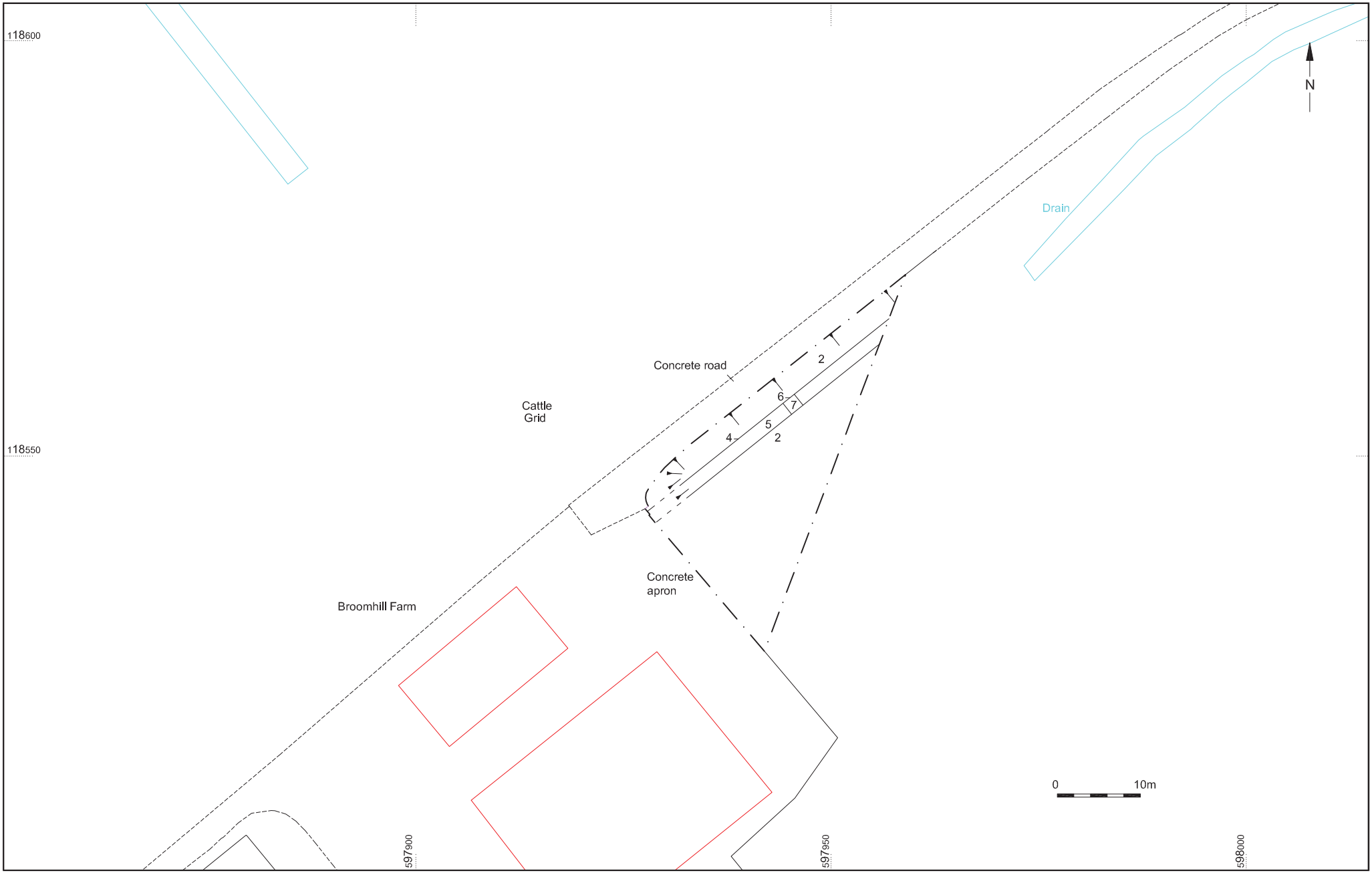
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Camber Wastewater Treatment Works, Camber, East Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2008135
Date	2008
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE Client Report : A4-sized report with ASE logos on cover



© **Archaeology South-East**		Camber Water Treatment Works	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 2795	Jan 2009	Site Location Plan	
Report Ref: 2008135	Drawn by: HLF		

© Archaeology South-East		Camber Wastewater Treatment Works	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 2795	Jan 2009	Site Plan	
Report Ref: 2008135	Drawn by: HLF		



© Archaeology South-East		Camber Wastewater Treatment Works	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 2795	Jan 2009	Watching Brief Area	
Report Ref: 2008135	Drawn by: HLF		

Head Office
Units 1 & 2
2 Chapel Place
Portslade
East Sussex BN41 1DR
Tel: +44(0)1273 426830 Fax:+44(0)1273 420866
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
Web: www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
Institute of Archaeology
University College London
31-34 Gordon Square, London, WC1 0PY
Tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
Fax:+44(0)20 7383 2572
Web: www.ucl.ac.uk/caa

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London