

**An Archaeological Watching Brief for the
YMCA Sewer Requisition Scheme,
Loose, Maidstone, Kent**

**NGR 576173 154701 to 576193 153470
(TQ 76173, 54701 to TQ 76193, 53470)**

**Project No: 3623
Site Code: YMC 08
ASE Report No. 2009047
OASIS id: archaeol6-57104**

Nick Garland

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for the YMCA sewer requisition scheme at Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road, Loose, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 20th January and the 27th February 2009 on behalf of HMPJV and their clients, Southern Water. Approximately 270 metres of trenching was excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist.

No archaeological deposits or finds were recovered from these excavations. The stratigraphy encountered in Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road indicated that the natural horizon in these areas had been heavily truncated prior to this work, possibly during road construction.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography

Acknowledgements

SMR Summary Sheet OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site Location
- Figure 2: Areas monitored

TABLES

- Table 1: Quantification of site archive
- Table 2: List of recorded contexts – Broadoak Avenue
- Table 3: List of recorded contexts – Postley Road

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology UCL, was commissioned by HMPJV, on behalf of Southern Water, to undertake an archaeological watching brief at Postley Road (northern part of scheme) and Broadoak Avenue, (southern part of scheme) Maidstone Kent (centred NGR 576173 154701 and 576193 153470, Fig 1) during works to create new foul sewers and upsize existing sewers.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The northern part of the scheme stretches 400 metres to the southwards from the junction of Postley Road and Armstrong Road. The southern part of the scheme stretches from the junction of Broadoak Avenue and Richmond Way 200 metres to the south to the junction of Broadoak Avenue and Cripple Street. Both locations are within residential areas.

1.2.2 The British Geological Survey (Sheet 288) shows the both sites lies on Hythe Beds

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Development of the site is permitted under the Water Act. According to the industry standards on heritage, the Heritage Consultation Group at Kent County Council was consulted and a archaeological watching brief was recommended as mitigation for any potential archaeological remains.

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the findings of the watching brief undertaken by Nick Garland, Andi Margetts, Sarah Porteus, Simon Stevens, Dylan Hopkinson, and Paul Riccoboni between the 20th January and 27th February 2009. The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** A Sites and Monuments Record search of the scheme were undertaken as part of the Kent County Councils specification for the archaeological watching brief and is summarised below.
- 2.2** Three findspots of Neolithic axes have been found in close proximity to the site. A narrow Neolithic flint axe was discovered on Broadoak Avenue (TQ 75 SE 13). A polished axe was found to the north of the site at 67 Quarry Road and a final axe was found 150 metres east of the site.
- 2.3** A findspot, consisting of two flint scrapers, was found to the west of the site on Loose Road (TQ 75 SE 17).
- 2.4** Several Cinerary urns and a Samian patera were uncovered in Hayle Place, 225 metres to the west of Richmond Way in 1834 (TQ 75 SE 13).
- 2.5** A Roman road, running from Maidstone to Dover via Lympne is located 400 metres to the east of the site (NMR no: Linear 328).
- 2.6** A set of Wartime defences are located at Armstrong road recreation ground just to the north of the site.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Objectives

- 3.1.1 The objectives of the archaeological investigation was to 'contribute to knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations associated with ground works' as outlined in the Kent County Council specification for the site.
- 3.1.2 The general aim of the archaeological work was to monitor the excavation of ground works associated with ground reduction of the site, until it became clear beyond reasonable doubt that no archaeological remains were present (e.g. once excavation reaches undisturbed natural subsoils). This was in order to ensure that any archaeological deposits, artefacts or structural elements exposed by work associated with the earth-moving were recorded and interpreted to appropriated standards.
- 3.1.3 After discussion with the KCC Archaeological Officer, a further specific objective was identified. This related to a small parcel of land to the south of Postley Road which was potentially undisturbed by previous groundworks. A Cinerary urn had previously been found in the vicinity and monitoring in this area had the additional specific objective of identifying any remains that may be related to this activity.

3.2 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.2.1 Any excavations into previously undisturbed ground were observed by an archaeologist until it became clear that no archaeological deposits or features were present. This included the excavation of new service trenches and the widening of any existing pipelines. The excavations monitored comprised 120 metres of trenching at Broadoak Avenue (the southern site). and 150 metres of trenching at Postley Road (the northern site).
- 3.2.2 During the watching brief, the groundwork methodology was changed and directional drilling was used in the parcel of undisturbed land to the south of Postley Road (see 3.1.3 above and Fig 2). This drilling had no impact on the upper deposits (archaeological horizon). Only the access to the drilling run, at the southern end of Postley Road was therefore able to be subject to archaeological monitoring.
- 3.2.3 All excavation was monitored, all sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features or deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of unstratified artefacts. All archaeological deposits and stratigraphy encountered were recorded according to accepted professional standards using context record sheets based upon the Central Excavation Unit recording system, as modified for use by Archaeology South-East.
- 3.2.4 The KCC Archaeological Officer was kept fully informed of progress, however, in the event, no significant archaeological remains requiring the Archaeological Officer advice were encountered.
- 3.2.5 A full photographic record of the area including any associated deposits and features was kept and will form part of the site archive.

3.3 The Archive

3.3.1 The archive is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, East Sussex, and will in due course be submitted to a suitable local museum.

3.3.2 Table 1: Quantification of site archive

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Number of Contexts | 6 contexts |
| No. of files/paper record | 1 file |
| Photographs | 35 Digital photographs |

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Two areas of excavation were monitored during the watching brief by archaeologists, totalling a length of approximately 270 metres. Areas monitored are shown in Figure 2

4.2 Broadoak Avenue

4.2.1 Table 2: List of recorded contexts – Broadoak Avenue

| Number | Type | Description | Typical Deposit Depth | Height m.AOD |
|--------|---------|---------------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 001 | Deposit | Tarmac | 0.05 m | 64.128 m |
| 002 | Deposit | Reinforced Concrete | 0.30m | 62.078 m |
| 003 | Deposit | Made Ground | 0.30m | 61.778 m |
| 004 | Deposit | Natural | N/A | 61.478 m |

4.2.2 Summary

Approximately 120 metres of trenching was observed during works at Broadoak Avenue. A thin layer of tarmac (001) overlay a thicker layer of reinforced concrete, (002), which comprised the road surface the excavations were truncating. Underneath the road a layer of made ground (003) composed of loose mid grey silty clay with frequent inclusions of modern brick fragments, presumably hardcore levelling on which the road could be constructed. The made ground (003) lay directly over the natural horizon (004). No archaeological material or deposits were encountered during works.

4.3 Postley Road

4.3.1 Table 3: List of recorded contexts

| Number | Type | Description | Typical Deposit Depth | Height m.AOD |
|--------|---------|-------------|-----------------------|--------------|
| 001 | Deposit | Tarmac | 0.20 m | 63.77 m |
| 002 | Deposit | Made Ground | 0.35 m | 63.57 m |
| 003 | Deposit | Natural | N/A | 63.22 m |

4.3.2 Summary

Approximately 150 metres of trenching was observed during works at Postley Road. A layer of tarmac (001) overlay a layer of made ground (002). The made ground, a mid brownish grey silty clay, was similar to that encountered at Broadoak Avenue. The made ground overlay the natural horizon (003). Parts of this stretch of the scheme were accomplished through directional drilling and therefore only entrance and exit pits were observed. Their stratigraphy mirrored the stratigraphy described above. No archaeological material or deposits were encountered during works.

4.4 Following advice from the KCC Archaeological Officer, Adam Single and after several site visits were made, the watching brief was downgrading from

constant archaeological monitoring to intermittent monitoring. Once it became clear that the natural substrate was truncated across the two sites and after consultation with and the agreement of, the KCC Archaeological Officer, the archaeological watching brief was stopped.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1** The excavations at Broadoak Avenue and Postley road revealed no archaeological deposits, features or artefacts.
- 5.2** The lack of archaeology uncovered on the site means there can only be a fairly limited discussion. The negative results are, however, informative regarding the likelihood of survival of archaeological remains in the close vicinity.
- 5.3** The absence of a subsoil layer in the stratigraphic sequence of both areas indicates that the natural horizon had probably been previously truncated prior to these works. This truncation is likely to have occurred during the construction of the road surface in Broadoak Avenue and suggests that all but extremely substantial archaeological remains are likely to have been previously removed.
- 5.4** The directional drilling technique used in the parcel of land to the south of Postley Road did not impact on the potentially surviving archaeological horizon. However, as a consequence of this technique, there was no exposure of the stratigraphic sequence in this area.
- 5.5** While the results of the watching brief indicate that the survival of archaeology in the immediate area is low, the evidence for archaeology in close proximity of the site (as shown by the HER) indicates that there is some potential for archaeology to remains to be present. This potential, generally lies, however, outside of the footprint of the existing roadway

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (2008), Specification for Archaeological Watching Brief during Southern Water YMCA Sewer requisition scheme in Maidstone.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The co-operation and assistance of Ray Vince of HMPJV and Adam Single, Archaeologist, Kent County Council (KCC) is gratefully acknowledged.

SMR Summary Form

| | |
|---|--|
| Site Name: YMCA Sewer Requisition Scheme, Loose Maidstone | |
| Site Address: Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road, Maidstone, Kent | |
| Summary: An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for the YMCA sewer requisition scheme at Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road, Loose, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 20 th January and the 27 th February 2009 on behalf of HMPJV and their clients, Southern Water. Approximately 270 metres of trenching was excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist. No archaeological deposits or finds were recovered from these excavations. The stratigraphy encountered in Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road indicated that the natural horizon in these areas had been heavily truncated prior to this work, possibly during road construction. | |
| District/Unitary: Loose | Parish: Maidstone |
| Nature of Development: Sewer Replacement Scheme | |
| Period(s): None | |
| NGR (centre of site : 8 figures): NGR 576173 154701, 576193 153470 | |
| Type of archaeological work Watching Brief | |
| Date of Recording: Between 20 th Jan and 27 th Feb 2009 | |
| Unit undertaking recording: Archaeology South-East | |
| Geology: Hythe Beds | |
| An Archaeological Watching Brief for the YMCA Sewer Requisition Scheme, Loose, Maidstone, Kent By Nick Garland MA | |
| Summary of fieldwork results None | |
| Likelihood of surviving archaeological remains on-site: None | |
| Location of archive/finds: Currently held at the offices of ASE | |
| Contact at Unit: Jon Sygrave | Date: 16 th March 2009 |

OASIS ID: archaeol6-57104**Project details**

| | |
|--|---|
| Project name | YMCA Sewer Requisition Scheme |
| Short description of the project | An archaeological watching brief was undertaken for the YMCA sewer requisition scheme at Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road, Loose, Maidstone, Kent. The work was undertaken between the 20th January and the 27th February 2009 on behalf of HMPJV and their clients, Southern Water. Approximately 270 metres of trenching was excavated under the supervision of an archaeologist. No archaeological deposits or finds were recovered from these excavations. The stratigraphy encountered in Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road indicated that the natural horizon in these areas had been heavily truncated prior to this work, possibly during road construction. |
| Project dates | Start: 20-01-2009 End: 27-02-2009 |
| Previous/future work | No / No |
| Any associated project reference codes | YMC08 - Sitecode |
| Type of project | Recording project |
| Site status | None |
| Current Land use | Residential 1 - General Residential |
| 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 MAIDSTONE LOOSE Broadoak Avenue and Postley Road |
| Postcode | ME15 6 |
| Study area | 270.00 Square metres |
| Site coordinates | TQ 76173 54701 51.2636422461 0.525433777299 51 15 49 N 000 31 31 E Point |
| Site coordinates | TQ 76193 53470 51.2525766279 0.525113829511 51 15 09 N 000 31 30 E Point |
| Height OD / Depth | Min: 61.48m Max: 63.22m |

Project creators

| | |
|---------|------------------------|
| Name of | Archaeology South-East |
|---------|------------------------|

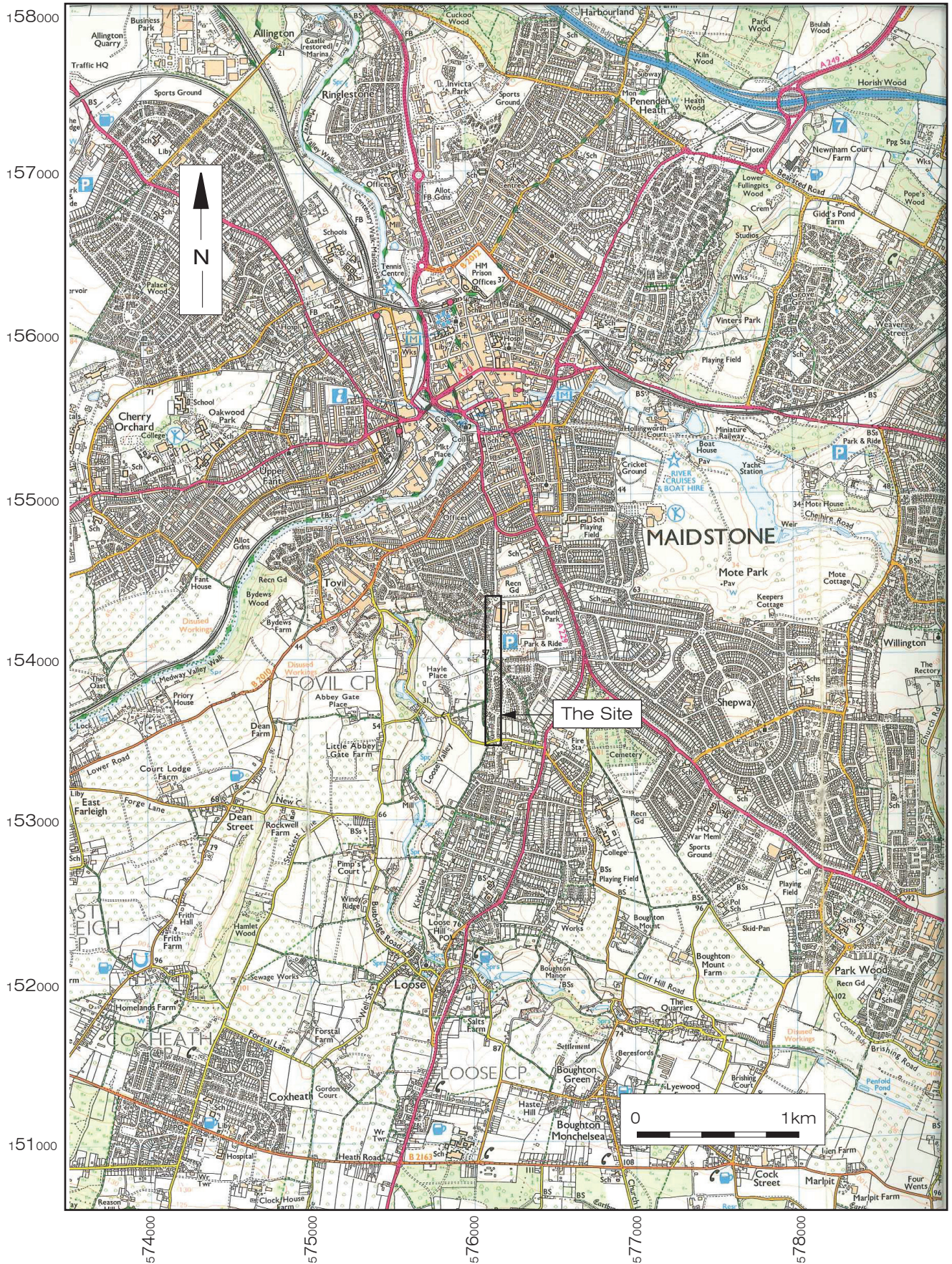
| | |
|------------------------------|------------------------|
| Organisation | |
| Project brief originator | Kent County Council |
| Project design originator | Archaeology South-East |
| Project director/manager | Jon Sygrave |
| Project supervisor | Nick Garland |
| Type of sponsor/funding body | Southern Water |

Project archives

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------------|
| Physical Archive Exists? | No |
| Digital Archive recipient | Local Museum |
| Digital Contents | 'other' |
| Digital Media available | 'Text' |
| Paper Archive recipient | Local Museum |
| Paper Contents | 'none' |
| Paper Media available | 'Photograph','Plan','Report' |

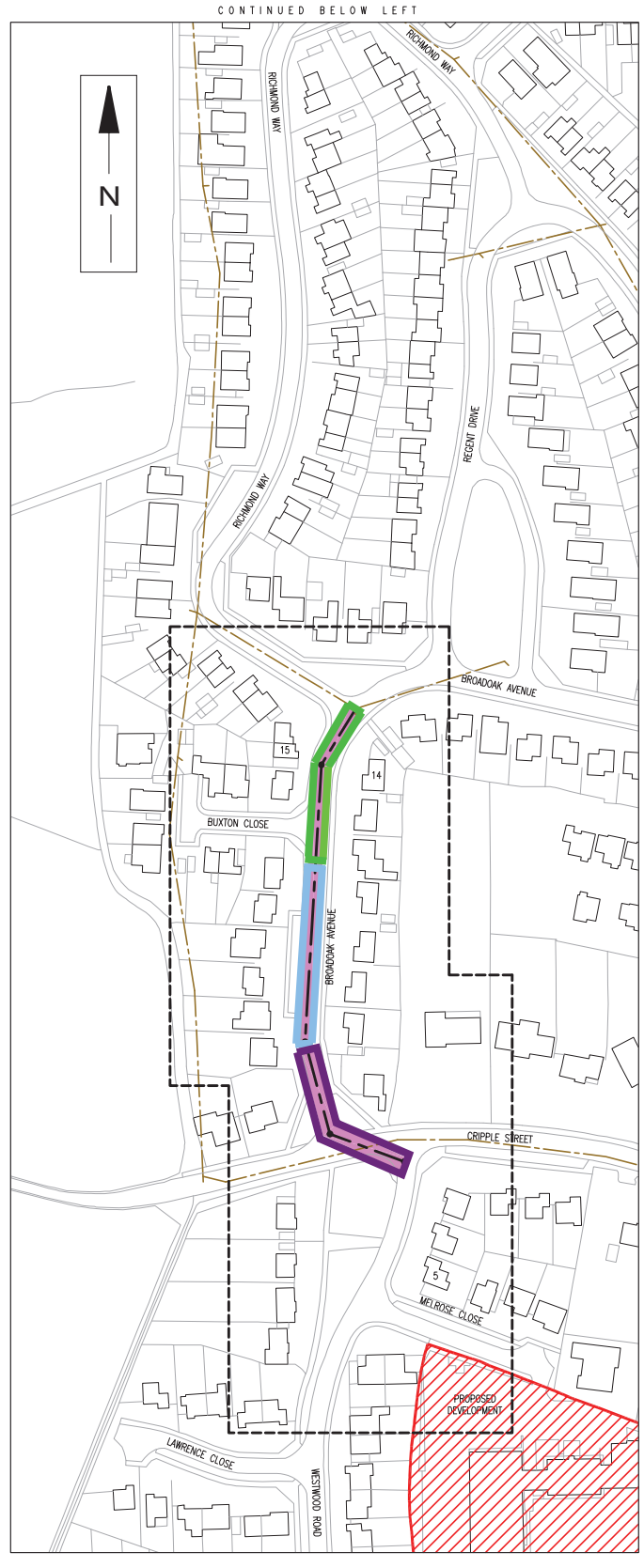
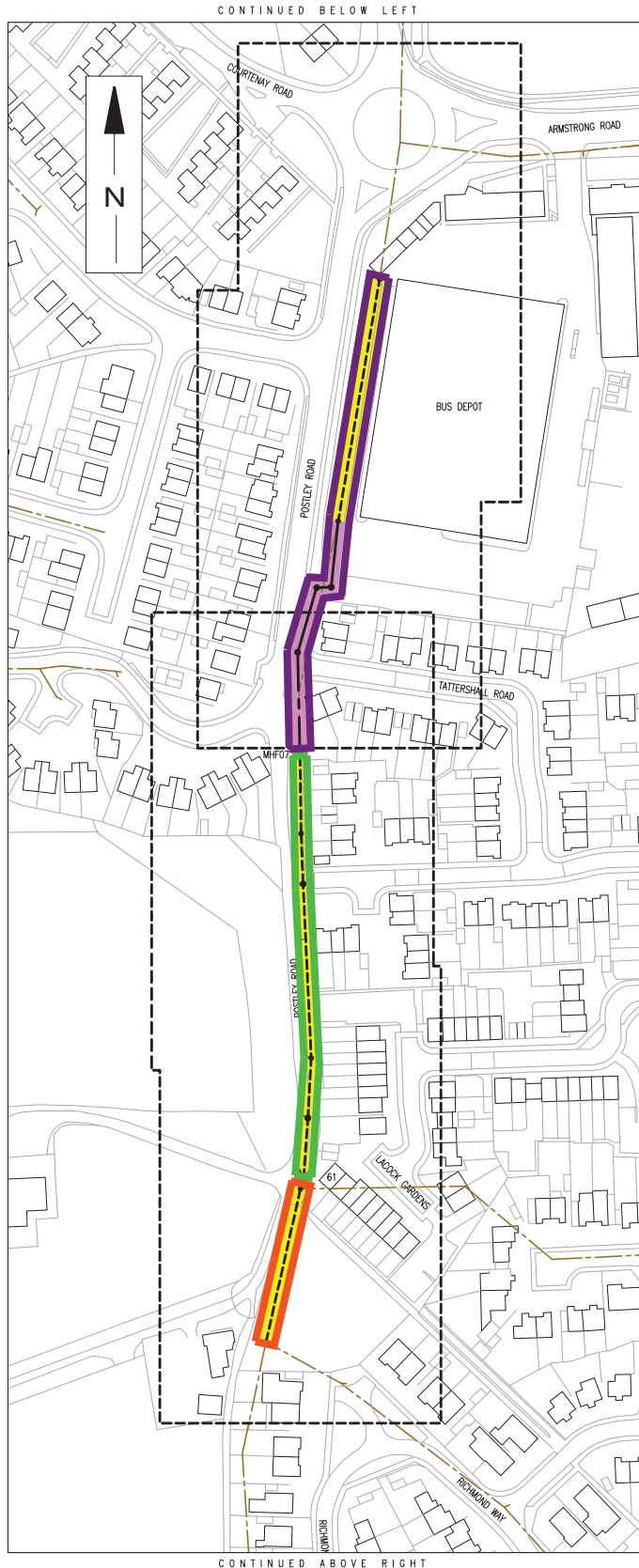
Project bibliography 1

| | |
|-------------------------------|--|
| Publication type | Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript) |
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| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|--------------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | YMCA, Maidstone | Fig. 1 |
| Project Ref: 3623 | March 2009 | Site Location Plan | |
| Report Ref: 2009047 | Drawn by: RHC | | |

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0 100m

-  Area Subject To Full Monitoring
-  Area Subject To Intermittent Monitoring

-  Directional Drilling
-  Area Not Monitored After KCC Agreement

| | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------|-----------------|--------|
| © Archaeology South-East | | YMCA, Maidstone | Fig. 2 |
| Project Ref: 3623 | March 2009 | Areas Monitored | |
| Report Ref: 2009047 | Drawn by: RHC | | |

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