

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Snipe Wood, Pembury, Kent

Planning Ref:N/A

**NGR 564075 141769
(TQ 64075 41769)**

**Project No:4712
Site Code: SWP11**

**ASE Report No.2011003
OASIS id:90693**

Sarah Porteus

January 2011

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Abstract

A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Jacobs LES during the strip of an irregular area approximately 50 metres by 10 metres during ground reduction for the insertion of a borehole and associated pipes, by South East Water in Snipe Wood Pembury. A thin cover of humic leaf litter of up to 0.20m thick overlay a mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil of 0.10m maximum thickness, which in turn overlay the natural Tunbridge Wells sand and outcrops of sandstone. No archaeological finds or features were identified.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA) were commissioned by Jacobs LES to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works associated with the insertion of a new borehole by South East Water in Snipe Wood, Pembury (NGR 564075 141769, Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site occupies a south west facing wooded slope between 70 and 75m AOD.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey the underlying geology of the site is Tunbridge Wells Sand.

1.3 Aims and Objectives

1.3.1 The aims of the work as given in the Written Scheme of Investigation, WSI (Jacobs 2010) are:

- *Identify, investigate and record any significant archaeological remains revealed by the groundworks, where such remains cannot be avoided by the work;*
- *To contribute to an understanding of the archaeology of the area and*
- *To make available the results of the investigation.*

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report represents the findings of the watching brief undertaken by Kathryn Grant and Sarah Porteus (Archaeologists) on the 4th and 5th of January 2011. The project was managed by Darryl Palmer (fieldwork) and Jim Stevenson (post-excavation).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The archaeological and historical background of the area was detailed in the WSI (Jacobs 2010) and is reproduced here with due acknowledgement.
- 2.2** A hoard of Neolithic or Early Bronze Age flint axes were discovered in 1950, and recorded as having been found 100m to the north of the site (Kent HER no TQ64 SW2). It has been suggested that the site, which lies close to the confluence of two dry valleys, may have been situated on an access route between the heavily forested area of the Low Weald and the more open high ground around Pembury during prehistory.
- 2.3** Pembury is referred to in *Curia Regis Rolls* in 1205 as *Pepingebuir*. Areas of Snipe Wood are registered as Ancient Woodland meaning it has origins in at least the late medieval period.
- 2.4** Post-medieval Bassett's Farm, now abandoned, is also known to have stood in the area.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1** All topsoil stripping of the area approximately 50 by 10 metres was monitored until the undisturbed natural substrate was encountered (Figure 2).
- 3.2** Excavations took place using a 13 tonne 360 machine fitted with a flat bladed bucket under constant archaeological supervision.
- 3.3** A digital photographic record was kept of the areas monitored.
- 3.4** All contexts were recorded on ASE pro forma recording sheets.
- 3.5** Spoil from the excavations was inspected by the attending archaeologist in order to recover any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	1 digital CD
Bulk finds	0
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Only three contexts were recorded during the watching brief and these are tabulated and described below.

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness	Height m.AOD
001	deposit	Topsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.20	70.00-75.00
002	deposit	subsoil	Tr.	Tr.	0.10	69.80-74.80
003	layer	natural	N/A	N/A	N/A	69.70-74.70

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Summary

4.2.1 The natural substrate, Tunbridge Wells Sand [003] was encountered at a maximum height of 74.70m AOD and had patches of shallow weathered sandstone outcropping, with greyish appearance (Figure 2). Overlying the natural substrate was a 0.10m thick mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil [002]. This was overlain by a maximum of 0.20m of dark brownish grey humic topsoil comprising clayey silt and leaf litter [001].

4.2.2 No archaeological features were present.

5.0 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

- 5.1** No artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest were recovered during the watching brief and no deposits suitable for environmental sampling were uncovered.

6.0 CONCLUSION

- 6.1** The stripping of an area of approximately 50 metres by 10 metres to natural substrate revealed no features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

Jacobs 2010 Snipe Wood: Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief. Unpublished document.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Archaeology South-East would like to thank Jacobs LES for commissioning the watching brief and the staff of C.J. Bardwell for their co-operation on site.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	SWP11					
Identification Name and Address	Snipe Wood, Pembury					
County, District &/or Borough	Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	564075 141769					
Geology	Tunbridge Wells Sand					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4712					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Woodland		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 4-5/1/11	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Jacobs UK Ltd, for South East Water					
Project Manager	Darryl Palmer					
Project Supervisor	Sarah Porteus					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other None		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>A watching brief was undertaken by Archaeology South-East on behalf of Jacobs LES during the strip of an irregular area approximately 50 metres by 10 metres during ground reduction for the insertion of a borehole and associated pipes, by South East Water in Snipe Wood Pembury. A thin cover of humic leaf litter of up to 0.20m thick overlay a mid greyish brown clayey silt subsoil of 0.10m maximum thickness, which in turn overlay the natural Tunbridge Wells sand and outcrops of sandstone. No archaeological finds or features were identified.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeo16-90693

Project details

Project name An archaeological watching brief at Snipe wood, Pembury

Short description of the project An irregular area of around 50m by 10 metres was stripped down to natural subsoil, no archaeological finds or features were present.

Project dates Start: 04-01-2011 End: 05-01-2011

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes SWP11 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Planning condition

Project location

Country England

Site location KENT TUNBRIDGE WELLS PEMBURY Snipe wood

Postcode TN2 4BB

Study area 500.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 564075 141769 50.9052672182 0.224795190821 50 54 18 N 000 13 29 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation Archaeology South-East

Project brief originator Jacobs UK Limited

Project design originator Jacobs UK Limited

Project director/manager Darryl Palmer

Project supervisor Sarah Porteus

Type of sponsor/funding body South East Water

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? No

Digital Archive recipient Kent HER

Digital Contents 'none'

Digital Media available 'Images raster / digital photography'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

Paper Contents 'none'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet','Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes','Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title An archaeological watching brief at Snipe Wood, Pembury, Kent

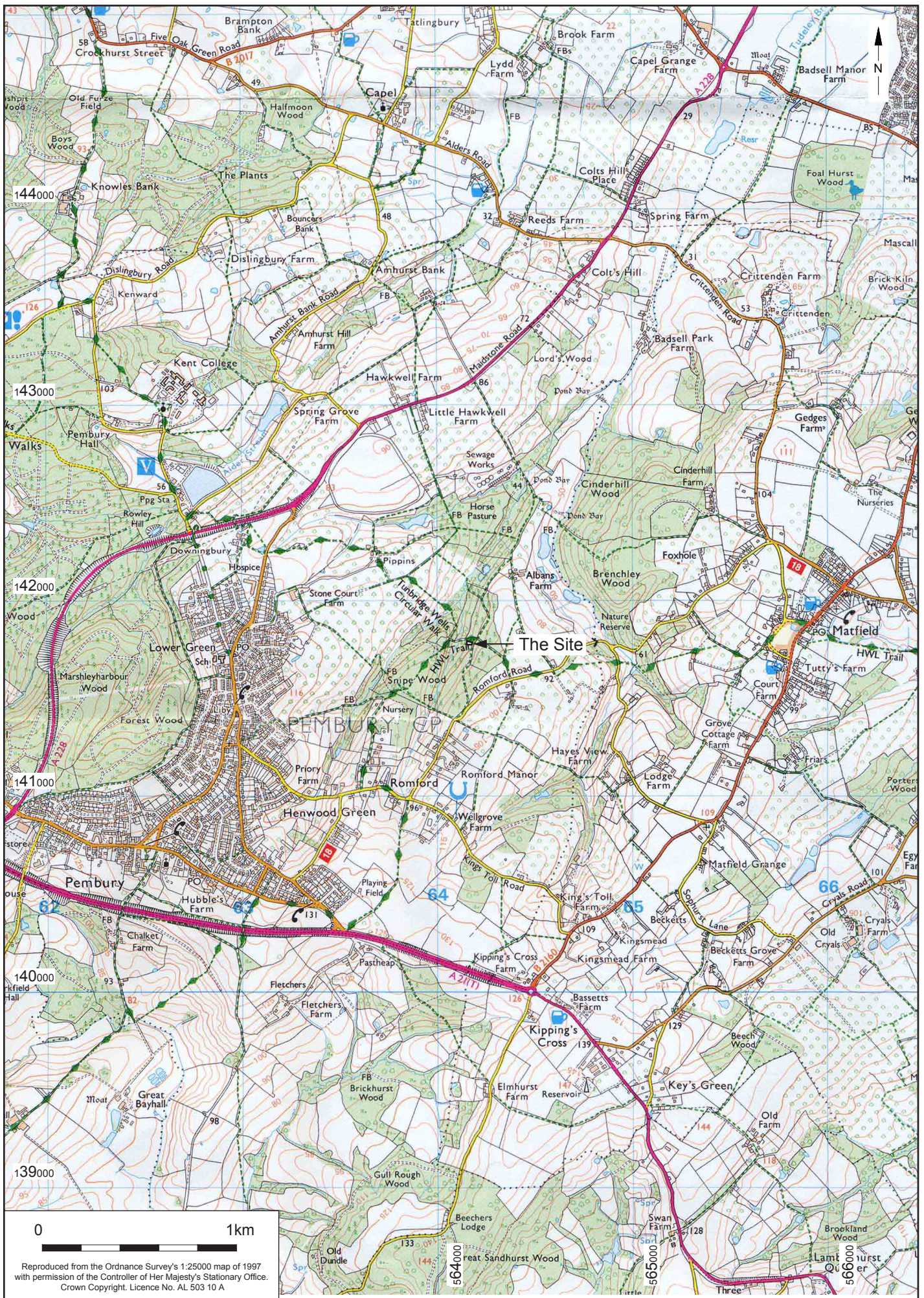
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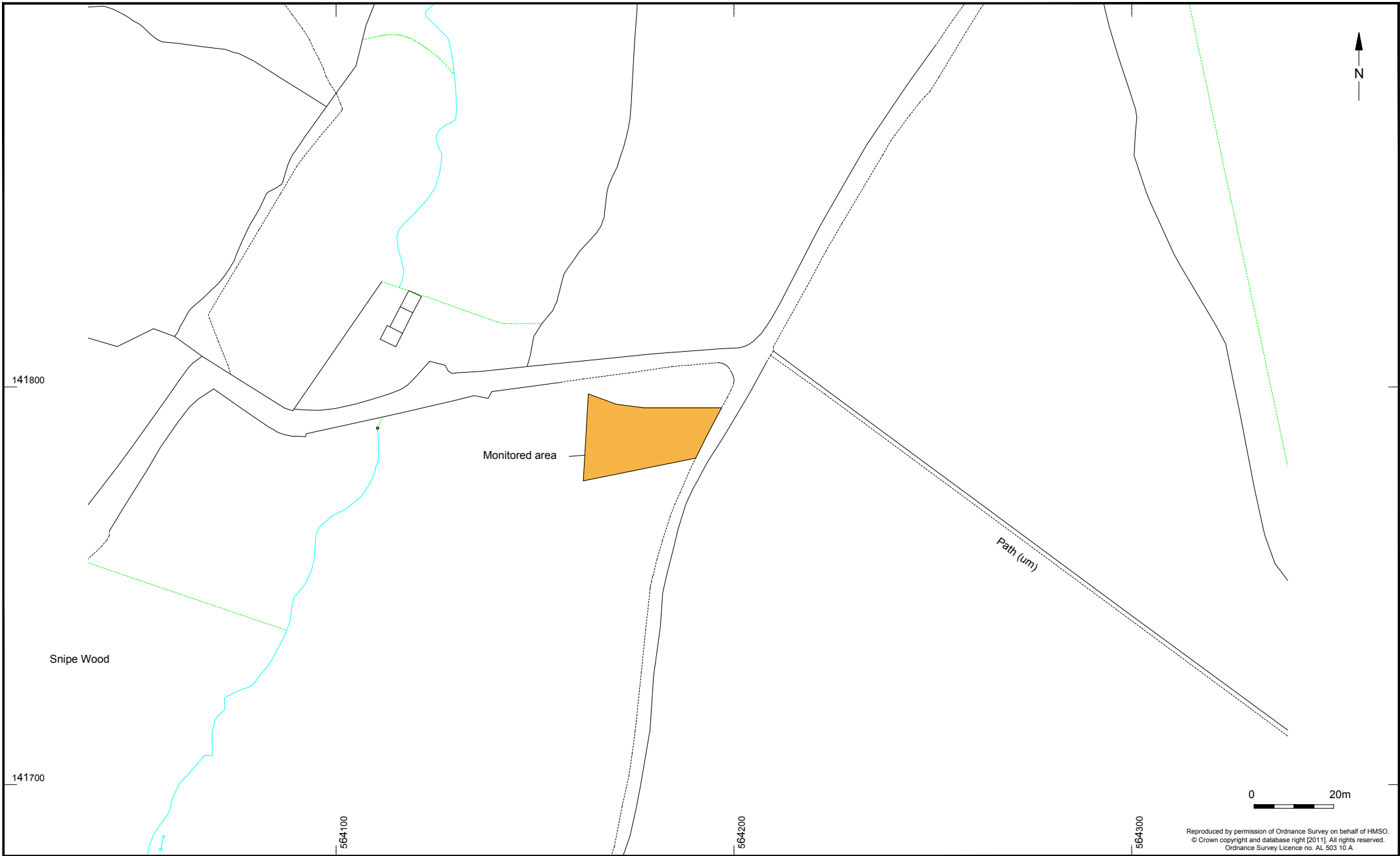
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© Archaeology South-East		Snipe Wood, Pembury		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4712	Jan 2011	Site location		
Report Ref: 2011003	Drawn by: JLR			



© Archaeology South-East		Snipe Wood, Pembury	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4712	Feb 2011	Plan of monitored area	
Report Ref: 2011003	Drawn by: JLR		



Strip facing east



Strip facing north-east

© Archaeology South-East		Snipe Wood, Pembury	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4712	Jan 2011	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2011003	Drawn by: JLR		

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