

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Dover, Kent**

NGR 633500 142200



**Project No: 5358
Site Code: WCD12**

**ASE Report No: 2012044
OASIS ID: archaeol6-119102**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA

**With contributions by
Luke Barber, Sarah Porteus and Lucy Sibun**

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**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

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the installation of two new Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) tanks and associated pipework at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Dover, Kent

Limited evidence of the use of the site as a prison was uncovered in the form of a short stretch of wall. A deposit of various artefacts apparently dating from the use of the site as a transit camp during the First World War was also recovered. A limited assemblage of pottery dating from the utilisation of the area during the Second World War was also uncovered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the installation of two new Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) tanks and associated pipework at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Dover, Kent (NGR 633500 142200; Fig. 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

- 1.2.1 The site is located on Langdon Cliffs overlooking Dover harbour at a height of more than 80m AOD. Much of the area is now given over to car-parking and associated access roads. The Visitor Centre, offices and residential accommodation also lie within the boundaries of the site, which encompasses a number of terraces.
- 1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey the underlying bedrock is the Seaford Chalk Formation. No superficial geology is listed for the site (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Although the work falls outside the usual planning regulation framework, Nathalie Cohen, the National Trust Archaeologist with responsibility for the site has recommended the implementation of an archaeological watching brief during the groundworks.
- 1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was duly produced by ASE outlining the techniques to be used in the field, and in the production of a report and an archive (ASE 2012).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 The aims stated in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (*ibid.*) were:

'to monitor excavations for the installation of the new LPG tanks.

Specifically the watching brief will ascertain whether any structural remains associated with the prison survive.'

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks at the site during early February 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is drawn from a report on a watching brief undertaken during works to improve the path leading from the coach park to the visitor centre (ASE 2010).
- 2.2 Little is known of the details of pre-19th century occupation of the site. The clifftops were occupied by open downland, probably exploited for arable use during the later prehistoric period. A possible earthwork boundary dating to this period was recorded east of Langdon Hole in 1999.
- 2.3 Between 1884 and 1897, the site was occupied by Dover Convict Prison, a series of buildings set on substantial terraces cut into the slope, bound by a large brick wall and flanked to the west by the Governor's House. Following its closure, the prison site was handed over to the War Office and used for storage and office accommodation by the nearby Langdon Battery (now the Coastguard Station). In 1901 it returned to penal use, this time as the Broadleas Military Prison, with some modifications made. This second prison closed in 1909, remaining unused until the First World War, when it was used as a transit camp for troops en route to the continent and renamed Langdon Barracks.
- 2.4 During peacetime, the site again fell into disuse, and many of the buildings were demolished by 1925. During the Second World War it was utilised for equipment storage by the nearby anti-aircraft unit and subsequently as a detention camp for Axis prisoners-of-war captured in Italy. It closed in 1948, was acquired by Dover District Council in the 1950s as an open space and gifted to the National Trust in 1988.
- 2.5 Most available historic mapping is of little use – the prison was a military installation for much of its life (under the control of the War Office from the 1890s until the 1950s), consequently the Ordnance Survey plotted the location of the boundary wall but recorded (or at least published) no details of the interior layout.
- 2.6 A plan of the basic layout of the prison has been compiled from a number of sources (Bannister 1999). A copy of this plan with the tank locations overlaid is reproduced in this report with due acknowledgement (Fig. 3). The first tank is located in the west side of the exercise area (12), with the associated trench leading off to the east before turning at a right-angle due south, just to the west of the cell blocks (1). The second tank is located to the southeast of the offices (5) although the associated trench will need to be excavated in closer proximity, along the east side of the offices.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The work was conducted in line with the specification outlined in the WSI (ASE2012). The mechanical and manual excavations for the installation of the new LGP tanks and associated pipework were monitored. The machine was a 3 tonne 360° excavator. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.2 A full 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 given back to the National Trust for display at the Visitor Centre at the end of the project. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	19
No. of files/paper record	1
Photograph	49 digital photographs
Bulk finds	1 box

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Fig. 2)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.2 The archaeological watching brief was undertaken in early February 2012. Weather conditions were far from ideal, with laying snow and ice, occasional snow flurries and a bitter east wind. Temperatures at the site did not rise above freezing at any time during the period of monitoring.

4.2 Excavations for Tank No. 1 and Associated Pipe Trench

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
001	Layer	Topsoil	350mm
002	Layer	'Natural' Chalk	-
003	Cut	Service Trench	-
004	Fill	Service Trench	2.0m
005	Layer	Topsoil	350mm
006	Layer	'Natural' Chalk	-
007	Masonry	Wall Footing	270mm
008	Cut	Wall Footing	-
018	Layer	Tarmac	110mm
019	Layer	Brick Rubble	410mm

4.2.1 Tank No. 1 was located to the north of the Visitor Centre in an area of hedges and small trees adjacent to a car-park on a terrace overlooking the lower level on which the Visitor Centre was built. The excavation for the installation of the tank measured 5.7m by 3.0m by 2.0m in depth, and revealed a simple stratigraphic sequence.

4.2.2 The uppermost layer was a 350mm thick deposit of mid-brown silty clay/loam topsoil, context [001], from which a small assemblage of pottery dating from the use of the site during the Second World War was recovered. It directly overlay the 'natural' chalk, context [002]. A service trench, cut [003] ran across the extreme south-eastern corner of the excavation and extended to the base of the monitored excavation. The single fill was context [004], a mixture of brick rubble and topsoil backfilled onto a group of disused cast iron water pipes.

4.2.3 The monitoring of the excavation of the associated 500mm wide, 600mm deep pipe trench between the site of the new tank and the Visitor Centre, revealed an identical stratigraphic sequence on the higher level, and down the slope towards the Visitor Centre; topsoil, context [005], over 'natural' chalk, context [006]. A stretch of wall footing, masonry [007] was encountered near the break of slope, running east to west across the trench. It consisted of fragments of yellow and red brick set in a grey sandy mortar, and dates from the 18th or 19th centuries, strongly suggesting it formed part of one of the previously unrecorded prison buildings at the site. It was 400mm wide and 270mm in depth and had been placed in a footings trench, cut [008], excavated into the underlying chalk, context [006].

- 4.2.5 At the bottom of the slope adjacent to the Visitor Centre the surfacing was tarmac, context [016], which was a maximum of 110mm in thickness. It overlay a 410mm thick deposit of brick rubble make-up, context [017], which rested on the 'natural' chalk, context [006].

4.3 Excavations for Tank No. 2 and Associated Pipe Trench

Context Number	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness
009	Layer	Topsoil	390mm
010	Layer	Chalk Rubble	1.1m
011	Layer	Topsoil	410mm
012	Layer	'Natural' Chalk	-
013	Cut	Feature	-
014	Fill	Feature	650mm
015	Layer	Topsoil	400mm
016	Layer	Chalk Rubble	110mm
017	Layer	'Natural' Chalk	-

- 4.3.1 The excavation for the installation of Tank 2 was located in the garden of *Centenary Cottages* in an elevated position overlooking the rest of the site. It measured 4.6m by 4.4m by 1.9m deep and revealed a more complex stratigraphic sequence than that encountered elsewhere at the site, and a collection of finds relating to the use of the area during the First World War.
- 4.3.2 The surface deposit was a layer of humic topsoil, context [009], which was a maximum of 390mm in thickness. It overlay a deposit of chalk rubble, context [010], apparently dumped as a levelling deposit to create the terrace now occupied by the garden. It was 350mm thick in the northern section of the trench and 1.1m in thickness in the southern section, reflecting its apparent function in modifying the natural north to south slope in the area. It overlay the former silty clay topsoil, context [011], which was a maximum of 410mm in thickness, and directly overlay the 'natural' chalk, context [012].
- 4.3.3 The chalk rubble, context [010], had been partially truncated by a feature of unknown extent, feature [013]. The dimensions of the feature were difficult to measure given that much of it had been backfilled with the same chalk rubble into which it had been cut, either deliberately, or owing to collapse of its unstable sides. It appeared to have measured between 850mm and 1.3m in width and 200mm and 650mm in depth, and ran across the trench broadly from south-west to north-east, suggesting it was roughly linear in configuration. The chalky fill, context [014] included pockets of mid-brown silty clay which contained a varied assemblage of artefacts, including pottery, glass, metalwork and animal bone apparently dating from the use of the area as a transit camp during the First World War.
- 4.3.4 The monitoring of the excavation of the associated 500mm wide, 600mm deep pipe trench between the site of the new tank and *Centenary Cottages* revealed an identical stratigraphic sequence close to the tank excavation at the depth to which it was excavated; topsoil [015] and chalk rubble [016]. Further up the slope towards *Centenary Cottages* the levelling deposit of chalk rubble petered out, revealing a simple sequence of topsoil [015], overlying 'natural' chalk context [017].

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Introduction

5.1.1 An overview of the finds assemblage by context is given in Table 2.

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	FE	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
014	45	9507			35	4234	15	6416	81	19076	1	12
007			10	1288								
001	7	1178										
Total	52	10685	10	1288	35	4234	15	6416	81	19076	1	12

Table 2: Quantification of Finds

5.2 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a moderately sized assemblage of pottery from the site: 52 pieces weighing just over 10.5kg. The assemblage, which reflects a hand collected sample, was recovered from context [001] and, more notably, context [014] and includes a high proportion of complete or substantially complete vessels. A range of types is present in the sample of 33 vessels and these are summarised in Table 3. The assemblage has been fully listed on excel table for the archive giving specific details about each type of vessel, its full marking details and its variations in dimensions and weight

Context	Fabric	Form	Function	Estimated number of vessels represented
001	Refined white earthenware	Plate	Serving (food)	4
014	English stoneware	Preserve jar	Food	9
014	English stoneware	Jar	Food	1
014	English stoneware	Bottle	Drink	1
014	Staffordshire-type brown glazed ware	Teapot	Serving (drink)	2
014	Refined white earthenware	Mug	Serving (drink)	9
014	Refined white earthenware	Plate	Serving (food)	3
014	Refined white earthenware	Bowl	Serving (food)	4
Total				33

Table 3: Breakdown of pottery assemblage by fabric, form and use.

- 5.2.2 Contexts [001] and [014] produced assemblages of clearly different date. The smaller sample, from [001], consists of the remains of four War Office purchased plain white dinner plates. These were obviously made to specification, all being 250mm in diameter and of similar form even though three different makers are represented. These are all marked in green transfer-print on the bases of the plates.
- 5.2.3 There is a single plate from the 'GLOBE POTTERY Co Ltd' (dated 1939), of Waterloo Road, Cobridge, Staffordshire (working from 1914 onward: Godden 1991). A further plate is marked BOOTH'S SILICON CHINA (dated 1939) equating to the Church Bank Pottery, Tunstall, Staffordshire) while two are of 'GEO, L ASHWORTH & SONS LTD' (dated 1940) of Broad Street, Hanley, Staffordshire.
- 5.2.4 The assemblage from [014] is both much larger and more varied. There are a large number of light grey stoneware preserve jars (jams and marmalades particularly) with Bristol glaze. The most common, have wide-spaced vertical grooves up their exteriors. Two sizes are present, the smallest measuring 81mm to 83mm in diameter and 98mm to 101mm tall. All five examples of this type have 'W.P. HARTLEY, LONDON & LIVERPOOL' impressed around the lighthouse trademark on their bases. The larger example, measuring 99mm in diameter and 139mm tall, only has '16' stamped on the base (possibly for 1916).
- 5.2.5 There are also two similar preserve jars but with close spaced vertical grooves (95mm diameter by 136mm tall) and a single example with no external grooves (108mm diameter by 154mm tall). None of these final three vessels are marked in any way. A complete shouldered salt-glazed jar (base 112mm diameter, rim 85mm diameter and 166mm tall) with rouletted beading around the shoulder and two tone iron wash is also probably for containing food (eg butter). The only other stoneware vessel is from a ginger beer bottle with tan exterior wash, Bristol glaze and incomplete black transfer-printing (probably LENEY of Dover).
- 5.2.6 Serving vessels can be divided between those for drink or food. The former include the remains of at least two teapots in Staffordshire-type dark brown glazed wares and nine identical refined white earthenware mugs. The latter have a diameter of 102mm, heights of 102mm to 105mm, foot-ring bases and handles with trefoil terminals. The body of the mugs are decorated with three recessed horizontal bands. The three c. 260mm diameter refined white earthenware plates are all from the same maker as even the detail is exactly the same. Unfortunately no makers' marks were present on the pieces in the sample. Four hemispherical bowls are also present. All are of different sizes and styles with a complete example of a blue industrially-slipped piece (162mm diameter by 84mm tall) being the only one with decoration. The others consist of a small example (139mm diameter), a large (unmarked) example (191mm diameter by 97mm tall) and another large example (c. 110mm tall) with black transfer-printed maker's mark on its base. This mark type, of C. T. Maling, starts in 1875 and continued in use until c. 1908 (Godden 1991 type 2487).

5.3 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

- 5.3.1 A total of eight fragments of ceramic building material (CBM) with a combined weight of 1273g were recovered from wall context [007]. The assemblage comprised a conglomerate mortar and brick mixture in grey sandy mortar with yellow brick (Museum of London fabric MoL3035) and red brick (Museum of London fabric MoL3033). The brick fragments are of 18th to 19th century date and probably wasters re-used in the conglomerate suggesting an 18th century or later date. The assemblage has been discarded.

5.4 The Glass by Luke Barber

- 5.4.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a large assemblage of glass from the site: 81 pieces weighing just over 19kg (fig. 6). The assemblage, which reflects a hand collected sample, was all recovered from fill [014] and is mainly composed of complete or near complete vessels. A range of types is present in the sample of 75 vessels and these are summarised in Table 4. The assemblage has been fully listed on excel table for the archive giving specific details about each type of vessel, its full embossing details and its variations in dimensions and weight

General Type	Specific Type	Estimated Number of Vessels represented.
Drink Alcoholic	Beer	9
Drink Alcoholic	Wine	4
Drink Alcoholic	Spirit	1
Drink Non-alcoholic	Mineral water	11
Drink Non-alcoholic	Hot beverage	3
Food	Jam	1
Food	Pickles	3
Food	Meat pastes	2
Food	Sauce	2
Household	Ink	6
Household	Medicine	8
Household	Medicine?	24
Serving	Tumbler	1
Total		75

Table 4: Breakdown of glass assemblage by use

Alcoholic Drinks

- 5.4.2 All of the beer bottles have embossing on them though the fragmentary nature of some types means not all can be tied to a brewer. Undoubtedly the most common are bottles from the local brewery of A. LENEY & Co of Dover that accounted for six of the beer bottles. Alfred Leney became the sole owner of the Phoenix brewery, Dolphin Lane, in 1865. It remained the firm's main brewery until it was taken over by Fremlins in 1926 (Reed 1997). These bottles, typically 60mm to 72mm in diameter, are in a range of shades of green and all have internal screw stopper fittings.

- 5.4.3 Three vulcanite screw stoppers for these bottles were also found (one still in the bottle) which are also embossed with 'A. LENEY, BREWERS, DOVER' and dates of 1912 and 1913 (x2). A single small (60mm diameter) internal screw stoppered bottle of G. BEER & Co of Canterbury and a larger (92mm diameter) example of G GARDNER & Co of the Ash Brewery are also present. Both companies worked throughout the later 19th and first part of the 20th centuries. The only other beer bottle was represented by a 73mm diameter base embossed '..6 to the ...' around its underside. The other alcoholic bottles include two large and one small green wine bottles with high kicked bases but no markings and a brown oval bottle with cork stopper closure likely to be for spirits.

Non-alcoholic Drinks

- 5.4.4 The most common type of these are mineral waters that account for 11 vessels in aqua coloured glass. Six of these are Codd bottles from two different sources. Five are of the Niagra bottle patent and embossed 'CANTEEN // R.G.A. // DOVER CASTLE'. The 'Canteen' was situated within the walls of Dover Castle and was used by soldiers as a public house. Although in existence from at least 1837 the embossed R.G.A probably indicates the Royal Garrison Artillery that was in existence between 1899 and 1924. (fig. 6)
- 5.4.5 The other Codd bottle is from ELVEY & Co of Dover. Although formed in 1884 the company was not trading under this name until 1898. It moved to Elizabeth Street in 1899 where it remained until 1962 (Reed 1997). The remaining five mineral water bottles consist of flat-bottomed Hamilton-shaped bottles. One of these, with blob top and cork stopper closure, has no embossing on the section remaining. The others are all embossed 'LENEY // DOVER' and have crown cap closures. Although the firm were originally brewers (see above) they produced table waters from premises at 8 Russell Street, Dover from c.1915 (or a little earlier) (Reed 1997).
- 5.4.6 Only one type of hot beverage is represented in the assemblage. One large (base 50mm x 49mm) and two small (base 42 x 41) square-sectioned bottles in aqua coloured glass are of PATERSON'S of Glasgow 'Essence of Camp Coffee & Chicory'.

Food

- 5.4.7 Eight vessels can be ascribed to being food containers. There is a 12-sided preserve jar (jam) with external screw thread and embossing in colourless glass of L ROSE & Co Ltd as well as a ribbed SHIPPAMS bottle (Registered design No 444681 embossed around the neck) and a further wide-mouthed meat paste pot with groups of short vertical embossed lines below its reeded rim (Patent 13353 embossed across its base). Both meat pastes are in colourless glass.
- 5.4.8 There are also two embossed lids from probable pickle jars. One, in colourless glass, is from a 'WURZBURG PATENT GLASS JAR' (patents in England, Canada, USA and France) while the other, in aqua glass, is by 'CANNINGTON SHAW & Co Ltd, ST HELENS'. A third complete jar (90mm diameter base and 189mm tall) in colourless glass with iron lid on reeded rim is unmarked but almost certainly for pickles. Only two sauce bottles are present, both in aqua glass. A small (44mm diameter base) cylindrical

example with moulded ribbing and diamonds on the body and a square example (70mm x 69mm base by 284mm tall) embossed 'O T // THE PROPERTY OF 'O.T.' Coy LONDON'. The embossing of a chilli pepper below 'OT' leaves no doubt about the sauce type.

Household

- 5.4.9 Six ink bottles, of four different types were recovered. Two are of the traditional type, in aqua glass with shear-topped rims for cork stopper. One of these is of prismatic (octagonal) form, the other in the shape of a cottage with two pen rests. The others are in clear glass: a small rectangular example (34mm x 30mm base by 80mm tall) with cork closure, and three cylindrical examples (41mm diameter base by 88mm tall) with cordons on their shoulders and embossed petal design on their bases. These also have cork closures, one cork with sheet metal alloy top and grip still surviving.
- 5.4.10 Eight definite medicine bottles were recovered. Two oval cork closure examples (45mm x 32mm base by 85mm tall) are in colourless glass embossed 'BOOTS CASH CHEMIST'. Two further examples, in rectangular-sectioned aqua bottles, are of ELLIMAN'S EMBROCATION one of the common patent 'quack' concoctions of the later 19th to mid 20th century. Another similar type of 'medicine' was the famous Lung Tonic of OWBRIDGE'S of HULL. Invented by Walter Owbridge in around 1874 'for all affections of the chest, throat and lungs' it continued in production long after his death in 1903 and is a common find on sites at least up to the 1920s. Three small panel and one large rectangular aqua bottles of this lung tonic are in the assemblage.
- 5.4.11 Twenty four bottles are probably medicines though other products cannot be ruled out. The most common of these (14 examples) are from rectangular aqua bottles (e.g. 46mm x 25mm bases by 156mm-160mm tall) with shear-topped rims and cork closure. At least three sizes of cylindrical aqua bottles, (heights of 111mm, 162mm and 176mm and bases of 36mm, 28mm and 41mm respectively) of matching form and all with shear-topped rims, account for a further seven bottles. Although of early type, the shear-top rim was continued for certain types of commodities (notably inks and syrups) well into the 20th century due to its cheapness (Fletcher 1972). Single examples of cylindrical, rectangular and panel bottles with squared club rims and cork closures are also present.

Serving

- 5.4.12 A single clear glass tumbler is the only vessel specifically for consumption within the assemblage. It measures 115mm tall with a 83mm diameter rim but is unmarked.

5.5 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 A single bowl was recovered from context [014]. This consists of a thick-walled Irish pipe of late 19th- to early 20th- century type, stamped on the back of the bowl 'LIMERICK // S.M. // CUTTY' in an oval cartouche. There is a good chance that this was discarded by an Irish soldier and is unlikely to post-date the Great War.

5.6 The Metalwork by Luke Barber

- 5.6.1 A selection of metalwork was recovered from context [014]. With the exception of an alloy strip fragment and the copper alloy top of a thermos flask, all consists of ironwork. Cast iron pieces include a heavy disc (185mm diameter) with 105mm central aperture of unknown function and part of a stove/grate. There is also an oval section of corrugated sheeting (265 x 140mm) and a spiked catch from a heavy door fitting.
- 5.6.2 The majority of pieces are from lidded cans. Although one rectangular example is present most are cylindrical, typically 77mm in diameter by 84-89mm tall. Another example, measuring 92mm in diameter by 98mm tall, has red, white and blue colouring and appears to be for custard powder. A further bottle-shaped can with screw cap (40mm diameter, 73mm tall with 20mm wide mouth) is probably for polish.

5.7 The Animal Bone by Lucy Sibun

- 5.7.1 A small quantity of animal bone was recovered from a single feature, pit fill [014]. With the exception of a sheep rib and vertebra and a pig longbone, all fragments were identified as cattle. Elements included longbones, ribs and vertebrae and all displayed signs of butchery consistent with splitting and jointing the carcass.

5.8 Discussion of the finds assemblage from fill [014] by Luke Barber

- 5.8.1 The majority of pottery and glass from [014] can be placed in a general late 19th- to early 20th- century date range. This in itself is not particularly useful considering the number of different uses the site was put to between 1884 and 1919. The composition of the vessel functions and types are also to be expected from male populated institutions whether they be of penal or military type. However, some pieces appear to be dated, or can have their dates narrowed. The refined white earthenware Maling bowl should not have been manufactured after c. 1908. This and the three LENEY beer stoppers (dated 1912 and 1913) suggest some pre WW1 material in the deposit.
- 5.8.2 If the site was not heavily used between 1909, when the prison closed, and 1914 when it became a transit camp it is likely this material relates to the early years of the Great War activity. Added to this the presence of Leney mineral water bottles, thought to have started c.1915 and the preserve jar with probable 1916 date it would appear the refuse relates to the Great War transit camp. This would also be in keeping with the clay pipe which perhaps is most likely to have travelled with a soldier relatively fresh from Ireland.

- 5.8.3 The presence of notable quantities of alcohol would also be more in keeping with a transit camp than a penal institution as troops would be free to purchase such products from the town or indeed the Canteen at the nearby castle.
- 5.8.4 There are very few comparative assemblages for this period. A small group of War Office refined white earthenware plates, bowls and cups were recovered from several small pits in Canterbury though most of these were maker marked and dated (Barber forthcoming). A much larger assemblage is currently being studied for the Great War camps at Seaford (Barber in prep). The Seaford assemblage has both similarities and differences to the current one. At a general level the composition of both assemblages is similar with private purchased local alcoholic and non-alcoholic drinks, food, inks and medicines and possibly military supplied preserves in stoneware jars. Indeed a number of the bottles and stonewares can be matched exactly with the Seaford assemblage (e.g. the Camp coffees, most of the inks, the lung tonic and all of the stoneware jars). The beers and mineral waters from Seaford are of similar types but of local manufacturers.
- 5.8.5 The Dover assemblage has a notably higher proportion of the possible shear-topped medicine bottles though similar types are present at Seaford. The Seaford assemblage also has a more notable quantity of privately purchased sauce bottles (HP, Daddies, Worcestershire, Yorkshire etc) with only two in the Dover assemblage. However, this may be in part due to the transient nature of the troop movements not providing enough time for men to buy sauces to liven up their rations.
- 5.8.6 There is more variation from both the Seaford and Canterbury assemblages when serving vessels are considered. Both of these sites are dominated by crockery specifically made for the War Office by a number of makers (as is noted in context [001] of the current assemblage). The use of different makers at Seaford has given rise to a number of minor variations in the vessels though it is clear the manufacturers were working to a set general specification to produce dinner plates and hemispherical bowls. The mugs and cups at Seaford are much more varied. Conversely the current assemblage shows a complete uniformity with the mugs and dinner plates but all hemispherical bowls are significantly different.
- 5.8.7 The presence of the identical mugs and plates is a sure sign of an institutional purchase. It is unfortunate none of the current plates are marked (a larger sample may have found marks) as marking is common on the Seaford plates and bowls. Although the absence of WW1 War Office markings may be due to the small size of the sample of bowls/plates (mugs at Seaford are never War Office marked) it is equally possible some of the vessels were reused pieces from the prison. Large quantities of fresh War Office crockery may not have been issued to the site – instead more reliance being placed on old prison stock and the use of individual soldiers' mess-tins. Any further work at the site should aim to increase the sample size of similar assemblages from sealed contexts.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 The earliest feature encountered at the site was the stretch of masonry encountered near the first tank location, which appears to date from the use of the site as a 19th century prison. Unfortunately this interpretation must remain tentative given that such masonry cannot be closely dated. Arguably any evidence of earlier activity at the site would have been swept away during the extensive landscaping and terracing seen at the site, probably dating from the same era as the masonry. More closely dated material included the Second World War ear plates, material evidence of the well-documented utilisation of the site by the military at that time.
- 6.2 However, clearly the most interesting deposit was encountered close to *Centenary Cottages* at the location of the other tank. Although the exact extent and character of the deposit could not be ascertained during the watching brief, it is evident that the material was most likely deposited during the First World War when the site was used as a transit camp for troops on their way to the continent. Stratigraphically it clearly post-dates the 19th century landscaping work and as discussed above, the material appears to relate to wartime activity both in character and limited available dating. Again, the use of the site as Langdon Barracks at that time is well-documented, but has, until now, not been seen in the archaeological record.
- 6.3 Although the value of archaeological examination of field remains of the First World War is now recognised (e.g. Saunders 2007), published analysis of finds assemblages is still somewhat rare, although again the potential value has been identified (e.g. Saunders 2004). However headline grabbing discoveries occasionally lead to pictures of artefacts appearing in the popular as well as the archaeological press, sometimes with more detailed subsequent publication. Recent examples include the excavation and re-internment of allied soldiers, discovered with some of their gear (Summers 2010), or the discovery of a so-called 'Great War Pompeii' of well-preserved human remains of German soldiers and their equipment in a collapsed tunnel (Tattersfield 2012).
- 6.4 Therefore the assemblage recovered from the current site is of great value, as an all-too-rare example of excavated material culture dating from this period. In this case it is perhaps given added poignancy by its location, plainly in '*Blighty*' but within sight of the continent.

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank The National Trust for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to Nathalie Cohen, Archaeologist at the National Trust for her input at all stages of the project. The co-operation and hospitality of the on-site contractors and members of staff from the National Trust is also gratefully acknowledged.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	WCD12					
Identification Name and Address	White Cliffs Visitor Centre					
County, District &/or Borough	Dover District, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	633500 142200					
Geology	Chalk					
ASE Project Number	4679					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other <i>Former Prison & Barracks</i>		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 07.02.2012 – 09.02.2012	Other		
Sponsor/Client	The National Trust					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the installation of two new Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) tanks and associated pipework at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Dover, Kent</p> <p>Limited evidence of the use of the site as a prison was uncovered in the form of a short stretch of wall. A deposit of various artefacts apparently dating from the use of the site as a transit camp during the First World War was also recovered. A limited assemblage of pottery dating from the utilisation of the area during the Second World War was also uncovered.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-119102

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Dover, Kent
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by The National Trust to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the installation of two new Liquid Petroleum Gas (LPG) tanks and associated pipework at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Dover, Kent. Limited evidence of the use of the site as a prison was uncovered in the form of a short stretch of wall. A deposit of various artefacts apparently dating from the use of the site as a transit camp during the First World War was also recovered. A limited assemblage of pottery dating from the utilisation of the area during the Second World War was also uncovered.
Project dates	Start: 07-02-2012 End: 09-02-2012
Previous/future work	Yes / No
Any associated project reference codes	5358 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	WCD12 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	PIT Modern
Significant Finds	POTTERY Modern
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	METALWORK Modern
Significant Finds	ANIMAL BONE Modern
Significant Finds	CLAY PIPE Modern
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Voluntary/self-interest

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DOVER ST MARGARETS AT CLIFFE White Cliffs Visitor Centre
Postcode	CT15 6HT
Study area	50.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TR 3350 4220 51.1307206049 1.337771246990 51 07 50 N 001 20 15 E Point
Height OD / Depth	Min: 80.00m Max: 90.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	National Trust
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	National Trust

Project archives

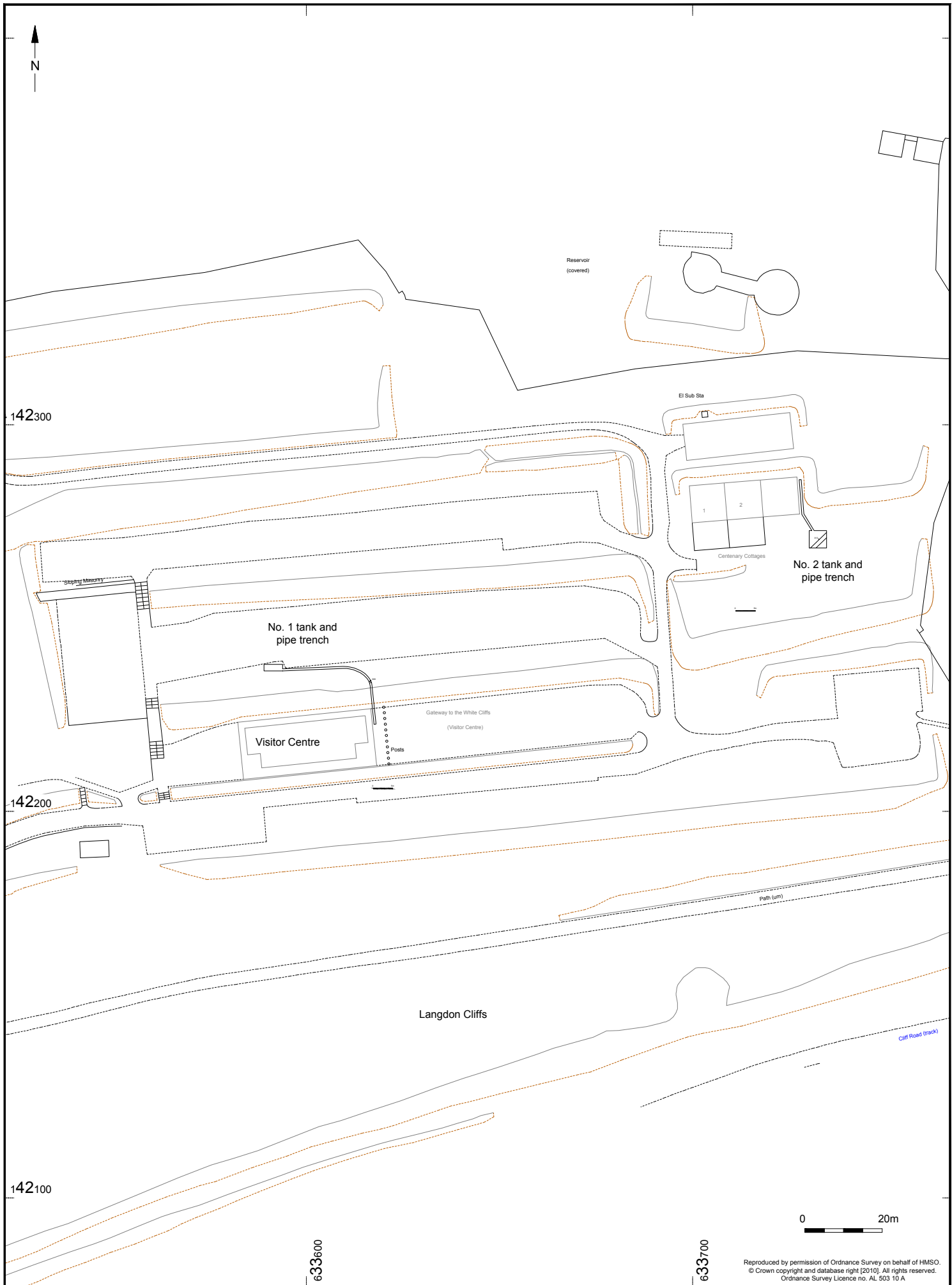
Physical Archive recipient	National Trust
Physical Contents	'Animal Bones','Ceramics','Glass','Metal'
Digital Archive recipient	National Trust
Digital Contents	'other'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography','Text'
Paper Archive recipient	National Trust
Paper Contents	'other'

Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Notebook - Excavation', 'Research', 'General Notes', 'Unpublished Text'
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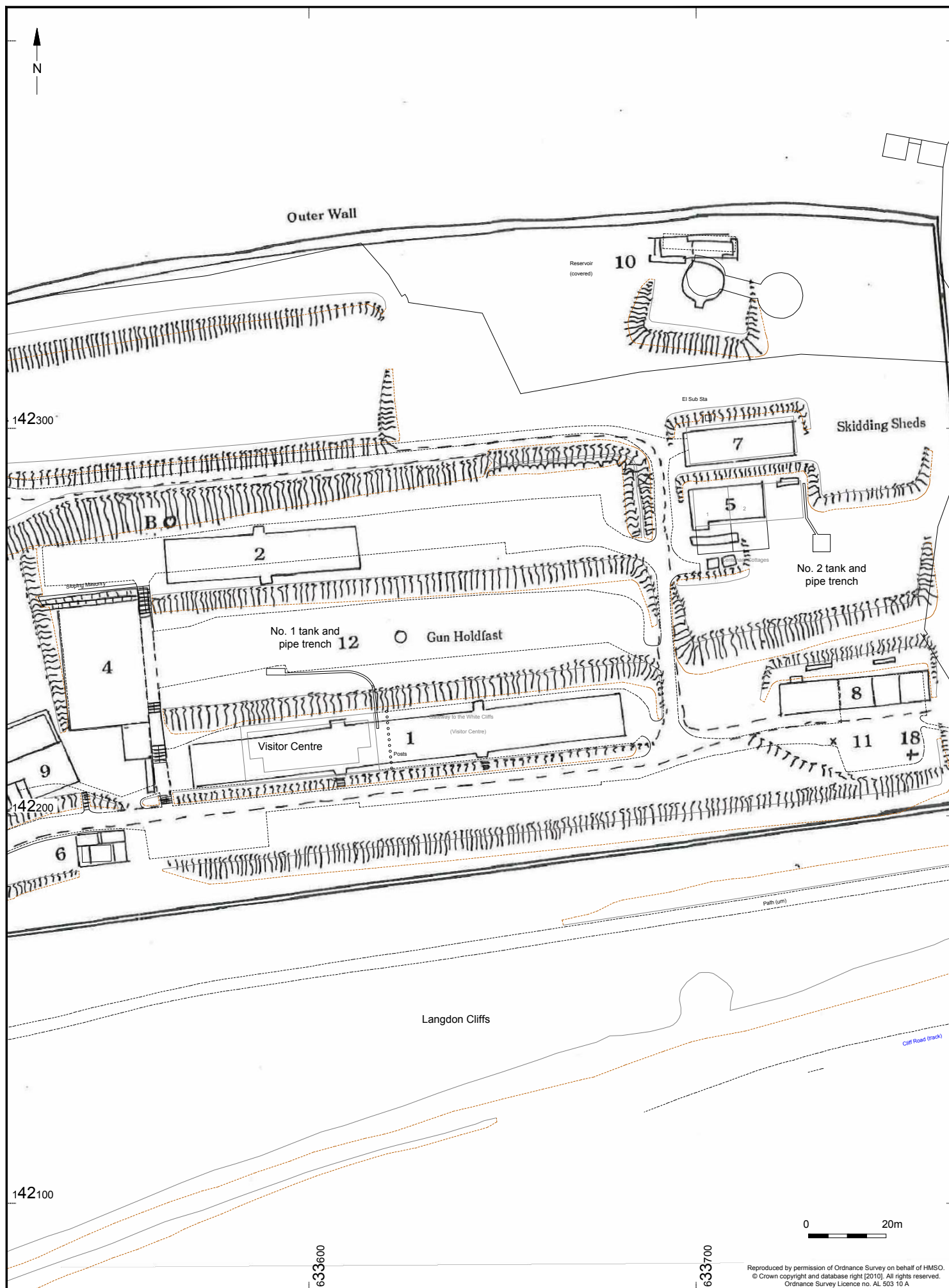
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at the White Cliffs Visitor Centre, Dover, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2012044
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos.

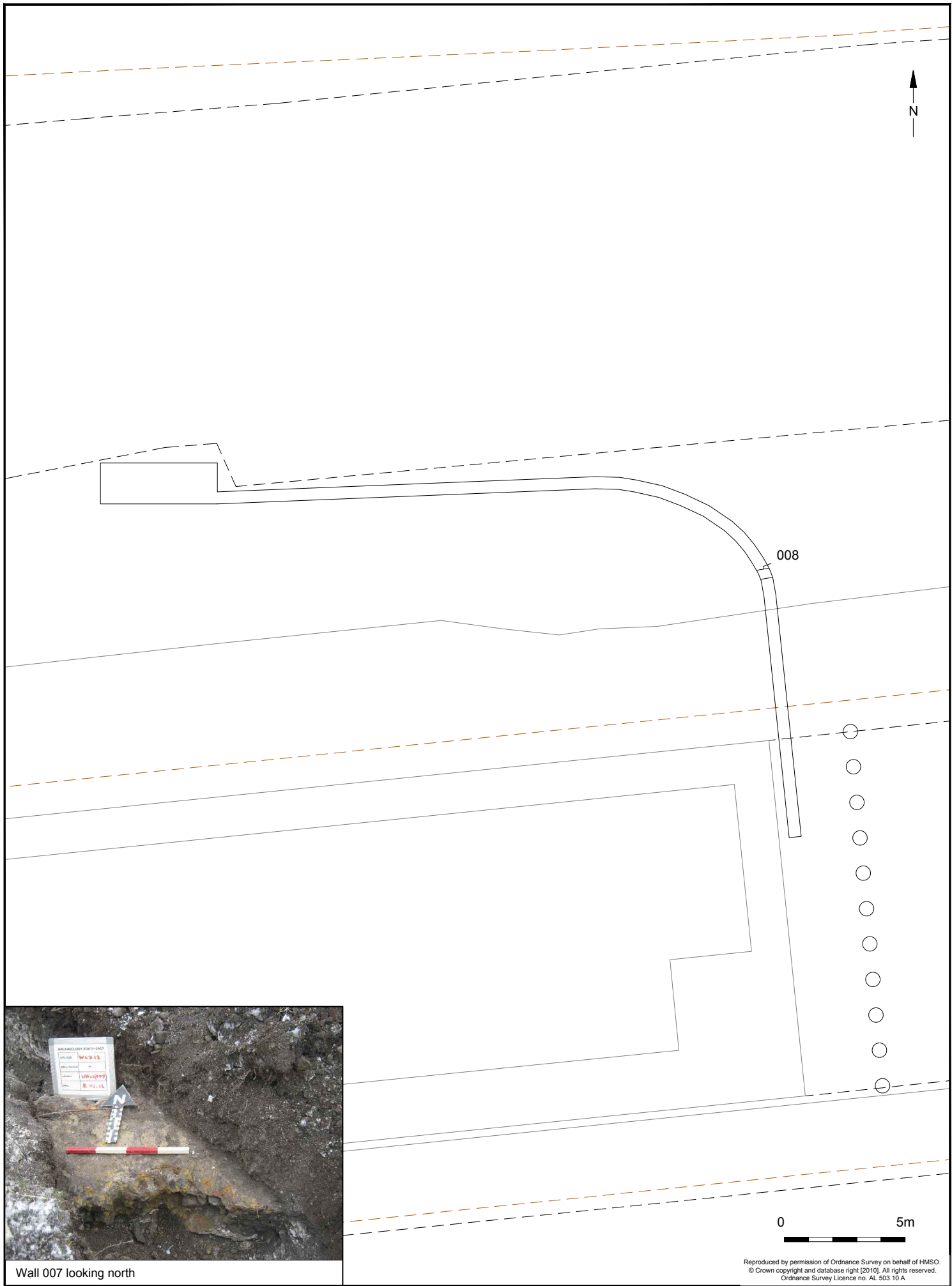
Entered by	simon stevens (s.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	23 March 2012



© Archaeology South-East		White Cliffs, Dover	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5358	March 2012	Location of LPG tank installations	
Report Ref: 2012044	Drawn by: JLR		

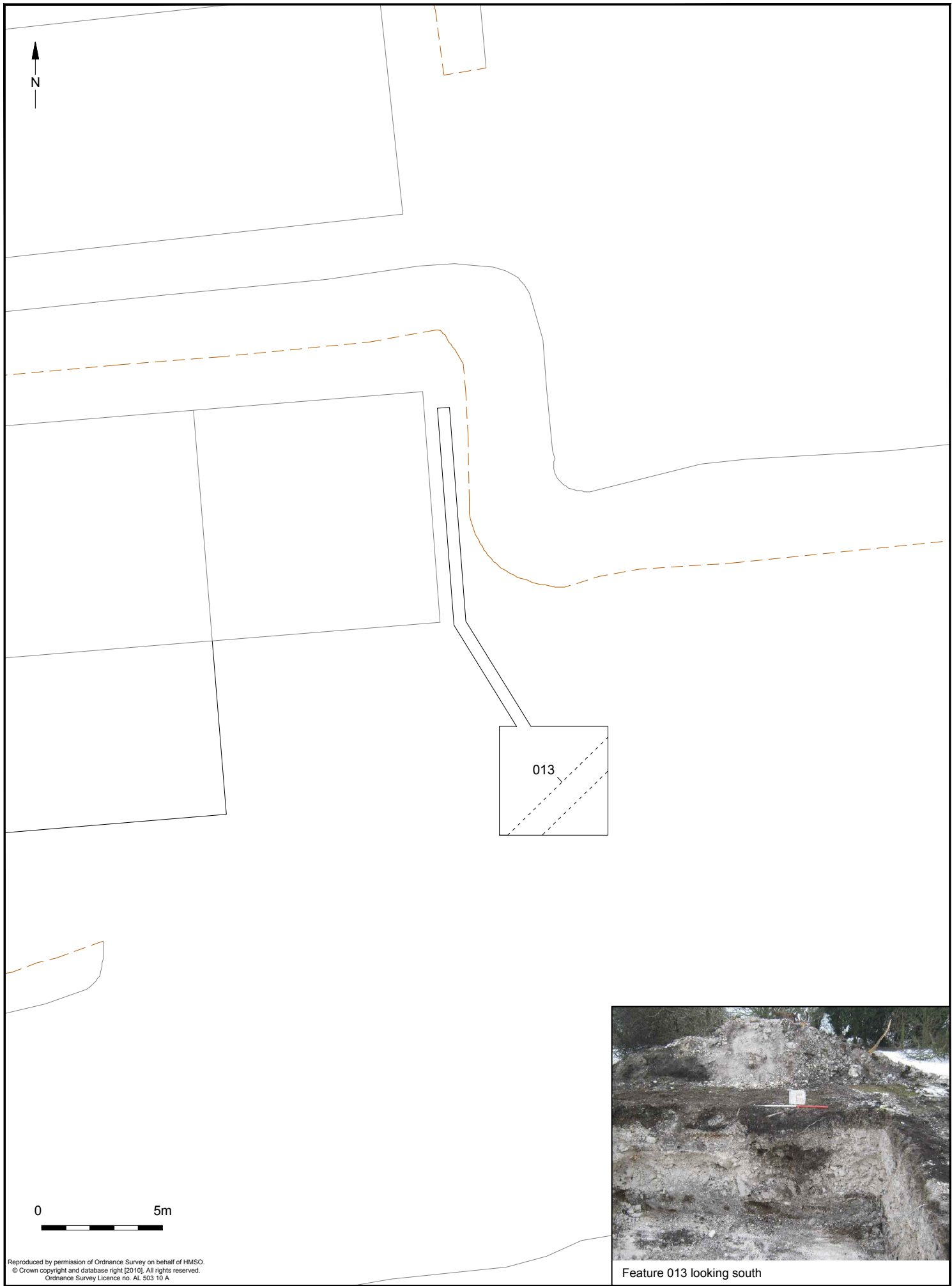


© Archaeology South-East		White Cliffs, Dover	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5358	March 2012	Location of LPG tank installations with details of known layout of prison	
Report Ref: 2012044	Drawn by: JLR		



Wall 007 looking north

© Archaeology South-East		White Cliffs, Dover	Fig. 4
Project Ref: 5358	March 2012	Location of no. 1 tank, pipe trench and wall 007	
Report Ref: 2012044	Drawn by: JLR		



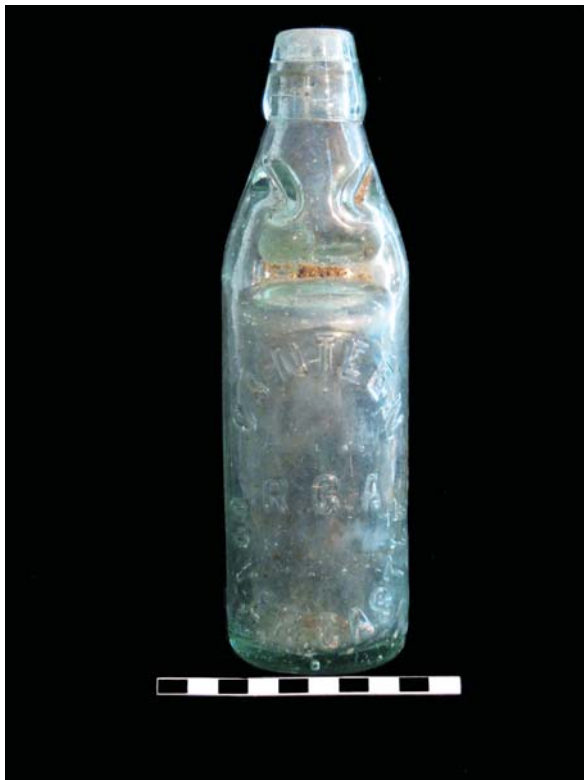
© Archaeology South-East		White Cliffs, Dover	Fig. 5
Project Ref: 5358	March 2012	Location of no. 2 tank, pipe trench and feature 013	
Report Ref: 2012044	Drawn by: JLR		



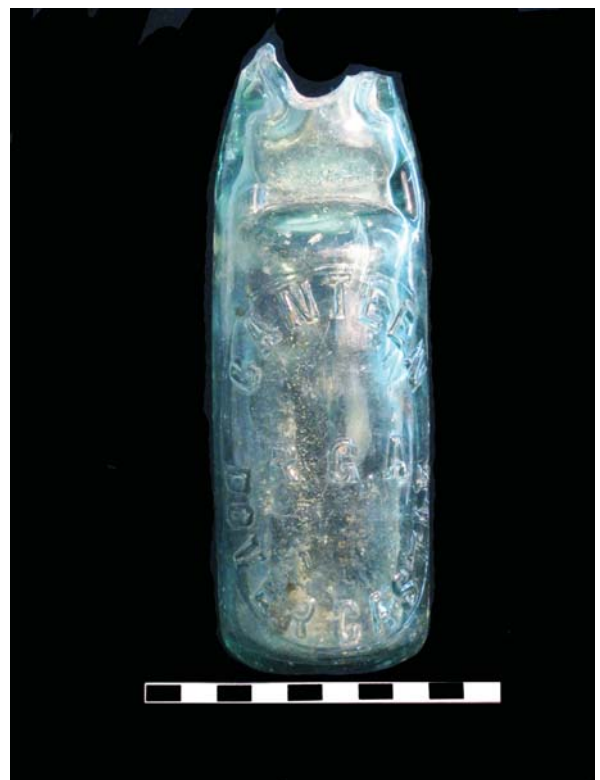
Group of smaller glass bottles from [014]



Group of larger glass bottles from [014]



Complete Codd bottles of Niagra bottle patent and embossed 'CANTEEN // R.G.A. // DOVER CASTLE from [014]



Codd bottle of Niagra bottle patent and embossed 'CANTEEN // R.G.A. // DOVER CASTLE from [014]

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

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