Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Wingham Well Water Main Renewal, Kent

NGR 620895 157211 to 624265 156214

ASE Project No: 160143
Site Code: WIW16

ASE Report No: 2016462
OASIS id: archaeol6-269048

An Archaeological Watching Brief
at
Wingham Well Water Main Renewal, Kent

NGR 620895 157211 to 624265 156214

ASE Project No: 160143
Site Code: WIW16

ASE Report No: 2016462
OASIS id: archaeol6-269048

Archaeology South-East
Units 1 and 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 Southern Water to undertake archaeological mitigation on the route of the Wingham Well Water Main Renewal project, which stretches between Littlebourne and Wingham Well, Kent,

The bulk of topsoil and subsoil removal and ground reduction was carried out by the contractor prior to ASE being notified of commencement of works and was therefore carried out without archaeological attendance. ASE monitored the remaining section of pipe trench; a c.75m stretch.

The general stratigraphy across the water main trench consisted of topsoil directly overlying a geological substrate of Thanet Formation deposits. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

CONTENTS

FIGURES

TABLES

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake archaeological mitigation on the route of the Wingham Well Water Main Renewal project, which stretches between Littlebourne and Wingham Well, Kent, hereafter 'the site' (NGR 620895 157211 to 624265 156214; Figures 1 and 2).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The British Geological Survey map the underlying geology of the site as a mixture of White Chalk and Thanet Sand – Sand, Silt and Clay. Superficial deposits are mapped as brickearth along the majority of the route with a narrow band of alluvium at its western end (BGS 2016).

1.2.2 The route lies to the east of Canterbury and is aligned through a mixture of road carriageway and open fields between the villages of Littlebourne and Wingham Well. The western end of the route starts at Bekesbourne Lane, negotiates the Nial Bourne stream and angles northward through an agricultural field to join the Wingham Road (A257). From here it follows the road to the hamlet of Bramling, and then joins the Wingham Well Road for a short distance before cutting through the fields to the south of the road. It re-joins the carriageway for a short distance before its junction with the B2046, the eastern end of the route (Figure 2).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Simon Mason, Archaeological Advisor, Kent County Council advised that due to the known archaeological potential of the area through which the route passes, a programme of watching brief (trenching within road) and strip, map and sample (easement within fields) was required to mitigate the impact of the route.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The broad aims of the mitigation, as outlined in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2016) were:

- To excavate and record all archaeological remains and deposits exposed in the easement or during the watching brief with a view to understanding their character, extent, preservation, significance and date before their loss through development impacts.

1.4.2 The project also sought to inform on the following areas of research in line with the South-Eastern Research Framework (SERF):

- Determine the extent, character and date of prehistoric activity
- Determine the extent, character and date of Roman activity

- Determine the extent, character and date of medieval activity

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The scope of this report is to detail the results of the watching brief in accordance with the guidelines set out in the Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid.). The watching brief took place on the 24th October 2016.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.0.1 The following background is paraphrased from information supplied by the KCC Archaeological Officer as part of their consultation response. The description of known archaeological sites runs from east to west along the route of the proposed works.

2.0.2 The Kent HER illustrates cropmarks of field systems in the fields where the pipeline emerges from directional drill (east of Nial Bourne stream) and extends to Wingham Road. Medieval finds and metal working waste has also been found in that field. Wingham Road is a projected Roman road from Richborough to Canterbury. There is a milestone on the main road that should be avoided.

2.3 Wingham Road continues to follow the projection the Roman road. Dockpitts Cottage is the site of an historic farmstead.

2.4 As the road approaches Bramling it passes in proximity to an area of prehistoric finds, a Roman coin hoard, early medieval brooches, Neolithic axe and Bronze Age beaker.

2.5 The Roman road projection continues on Wingham Well Lane. The fields south of the road have numerous finds recorded from metal detecting including prehistoric, Roman, early medieval, medieval and post-medieval. Roman coins, pottery, tile and bone were also found in an investigation to the south in 2007.

2.6 The route progresses through the fields in an easterly direction in an area of recorded detectorist finds.

2.7 Iron Age and Roman sites are known to the east of Wingham Well Road as it turns south and barrow cemetery lies on its west side to south of end of proposed route.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 The planned mitigation, as outlined in the WSI (ibid.) was to comprise the following:

- Stage 1: A strip, map and sample exercise targeting the line of the easement as it passed through the fields in the east (c.100m) and west (c.1km) of the route (Figure 2) which was to be mechanically reduced under archaeological supervision to the level of the underlying geology, or archaeology, whichever is highest.

- Stage 2: Watching brief on the remainder of the route along Wingham Road/Wingham Well Lane (Figure 2).

3.1.2 However, the bulk of topsoil and subsoil removal and ground reduction was carried out by the contractor prior to ASE being notified of commencement of works and was therefore carried out without archaeological attendance.

3.1.3 ASE were notified of this error by Southern Water. ASE were then asked to monitor the remaining section of pipe trench; a c.75m stretch connecting the pipeline in the stripped field, back to Wingham Well Lane (Figure 2).

3.1.4 Removal of topsoil and subsoil on the remaining section was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless ditching bucket under the direct supervision of an archaeologist. Deposits were removed in spits no greater than 200mm in thickness. Machine excavation was carried down on to the top of the surface of natural deposits. Care was taken not to machine off seemingly homogenous layers that may include the upper parts of archaeological features. The resultant surfaces will be cleaned and recorded.

3.1.5 All monitored excavation work was carried out in line with the relevant CIfA guidance documents (CIfA 2014a; 2014b; 2014c) as well as Kent County Council's manual of specifications.

3.2 The Site Archive

3.2.1 The site archive is currently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 and 2)

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
BandW photos	0
Digital photos	5
Permatrace sheets	0
Watching Brief Record Forms	1

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Pipe trench monitored on 24/10/2016

4.1.1 The pipe trench was excavated to a depth of 1.10m from the topsoil surface. Topsoil directly overlay the surface of the 'natural' geological substrate, which was encountered at a depth of c.0.20 – 0.26m and comprised light yellowish sandy clay, consistent with the BGS description of the underlying geology of the Site as Thanet Formation.

4.1.2 The 'natural' surface had been impacted in places along the length of the trench by previous modern truncation.

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	0.26
002	Layer	Natural geology	Trench	Trench	>0.89

Table 2: List of recorded contexts

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

5.1 The bulk of topsoil and subsoil removal and ground reduction was carried out by the contractor prior to ASE being notified of commencement of works. The remaining 75m of pipe trench was monitored running from west to east. This was approximately 0.5m wide and 1.10m deep.

5.2 The stratigraphy across the trench consisted of topsoil directly overlying Thanet Formation geological deposits.

5.3 The surface of the geological substrate appeared, in places, to have been impacted upon by previous episodes of modern truncation.

5.3 During the watching brief no archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2016 *Wingham Well Water Main Renewal, Kent.* Written Scheme of Investigation for Archaeological Strip, Map and Sample and Watching Brief

British Geological Survey 2016 Geoindex, accessed online: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/GeoIndex/, 7th April 2016

CIfA, 2014a *Standard and Guidance for archaeological excavation (revised). Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*

CIfA, 2014b *Standard and Guidance for an archaeological watching brief (revised). Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*

CIfA, 2014c *Code of Conduct (revised). Chartered Institute for Archaeologists*

Kent County Council Manual of Specifications, Part B

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Southern Water for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project, and Kent County Council Archaeologist Simon Mason for his guidance and monitoring. The excavation was directed by Thomas Simms. Paul Mason managed the fieldwork and Jim Stevenson and Andy Margetts the post-excavation process.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	WIW16					
Identification Name and Address	Canterbury: Wingham Well					
County, District and/or Borough	Canterbury					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR 620895 157211 to 624265 156214					
Geology	Thanet Formation					
Arch. South-East Project Number	160146					
Type of Fieldwork			Watching Brief			
Type of Site	Green Field					
Dates of Fieldwork			WB. 24/10/16			
Sponsor/Client	Southern Water					
Project Manager	Paul Mason					
Project Supervisor	Thomas Simms					
Period Summary						
				Other None		

Summary

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake archaeological mitigation on the route of the Wingham Well Water Main Renewal project, which stretches between Littlebourne and Wingham Well, Kent,

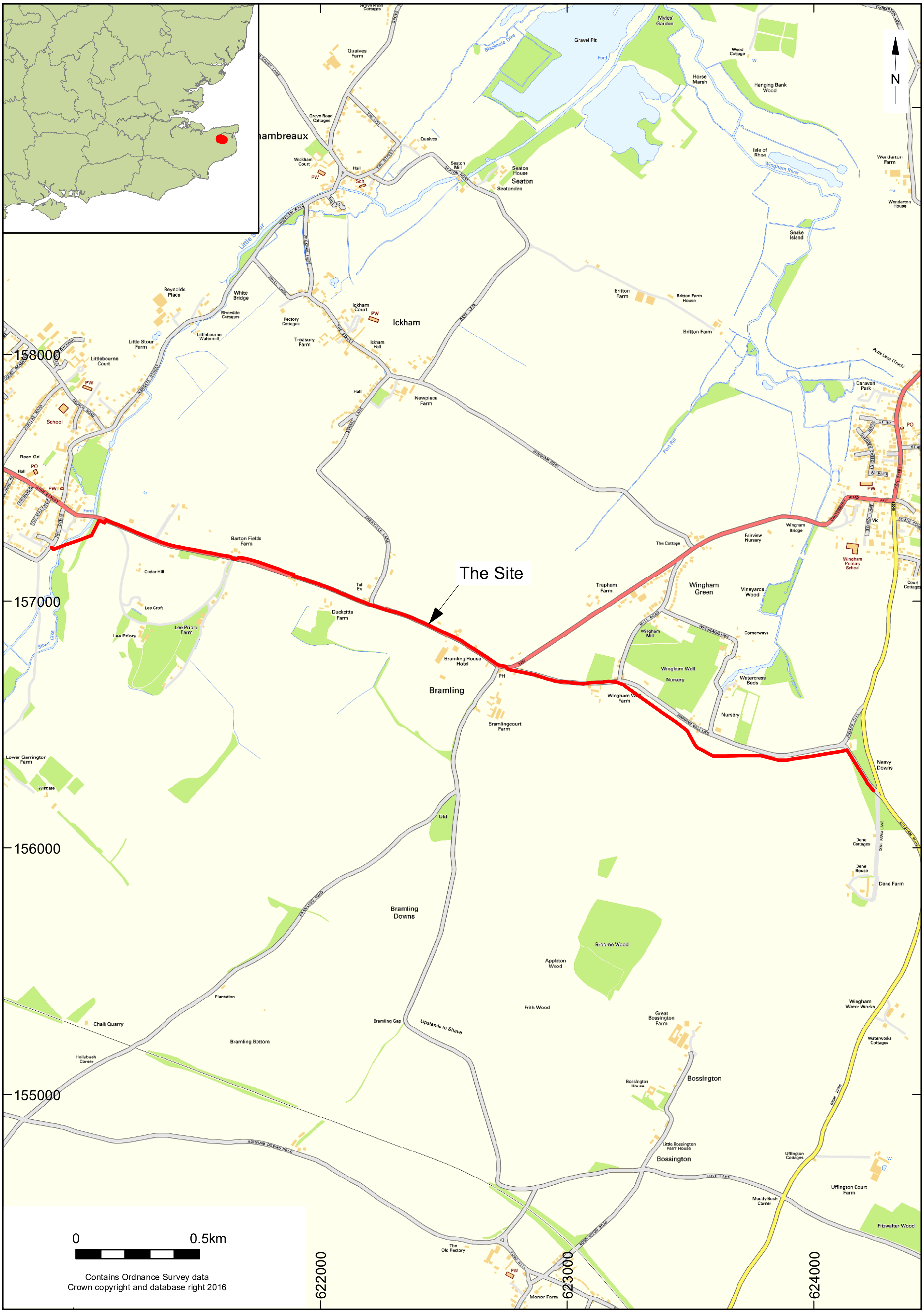
The general stratigraphy across the monitored parts of the water main trench consisted of topsoil directly overlying a geological substrate of Thanet Formation deposits. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.

OASIS Form

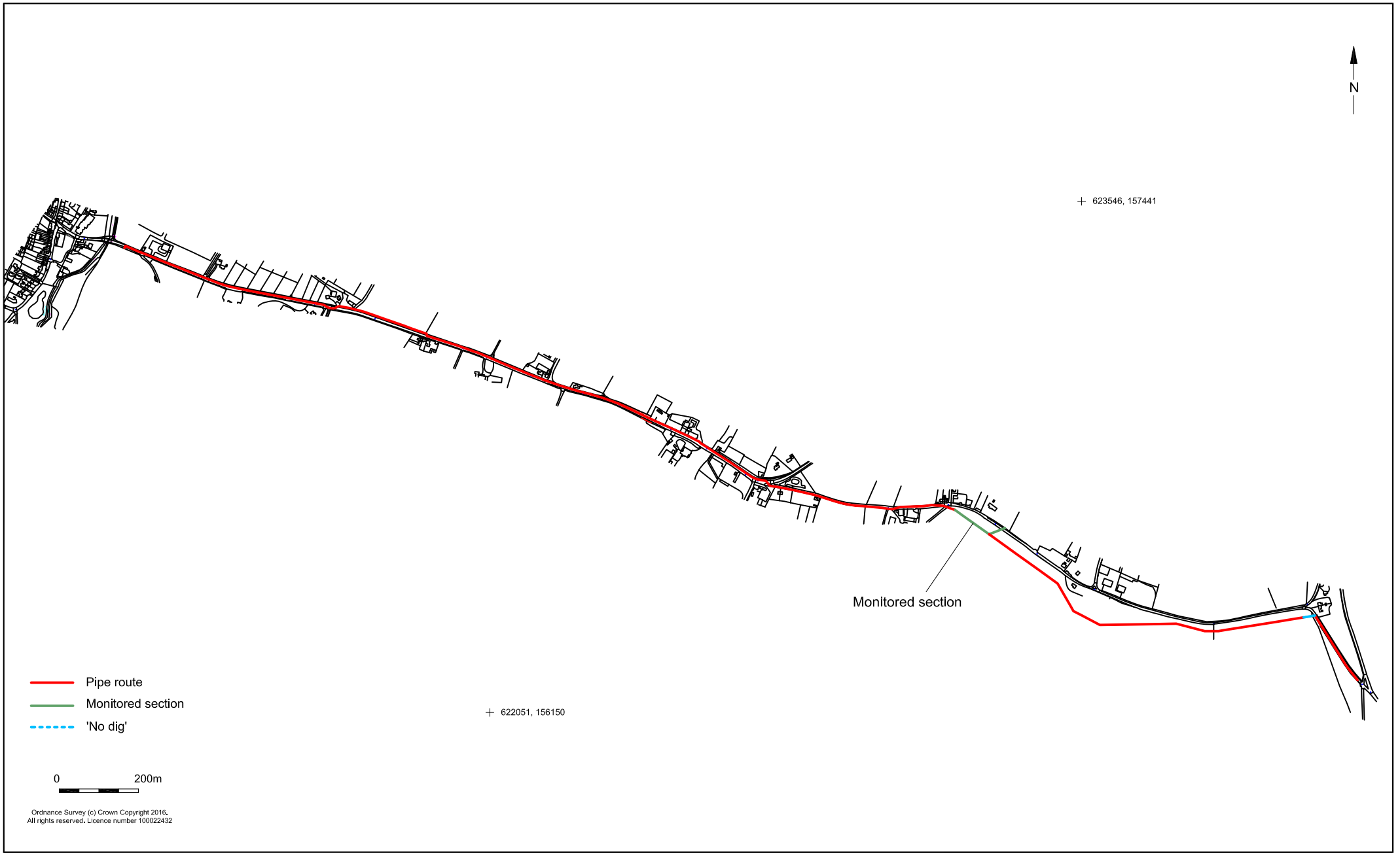
OASIS ID: archaeol6-269048

Project details	
Project name	Canterbury: Wingham Well
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake archaeological mitigation on the route of the Wingham Well Water Main Renewal project, which stretches between Littlebourne and Wingham Well, Kent, The general stratigraphy across the water main trench consisted of topsoil directly overlying a geological substrate of Thanet Formation deposits. No archaeological features, deposits or artefacts were encountered.
Project dates	Start: 24-10-2016 End: 24-10-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	WIW16 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined
Monument type	NONE None
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	KENT DOVER WINGHAM Wingham Well
Postcode	CT3 1NW
Study area	4 Kilometres
Site coordinates	TQ 620895 157211 50.91757161157 0.306235297489 50 55 03 N 000 18 22 E Point
Site coordinates	TQ 624265 156214 50.916580655492 0.310981627865 50 54 59 N 000 18 39 E Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Southern Water
Project design	Kent County Council

originator	
Project director/manager	Paul Mason
Project supervisor	Thomas Simms
Type of sponsor/funding body	client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southern Water
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	Canterbury Museum
Digital Archive recipient	Canterbury Museum
Digital Media available	"Database","Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Canterbury Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","Map","Photograph","Report","Unpublished Text","Unspecified Archive"
Entered by	Garrett Sheehan (g.sheehan@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	17 November 2016



© Archaeology South-East		Wingham Well, Canterbury	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160143	November 2016	Site location	
Report Ref: 2016462	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Wingham Well, Canterbury	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160143	Nov 2016	Plan of pipe route	
Report Ref: 160462	Drawn by: AR		

General trench shot, looking east

General trench stratigraphy, looking north

© **Archaeology South-East**		Wingham Well, Canterbury	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 160143	Nov 2016	Photographs of monitored groundwork	
Report Ref: 160462	Drawn by: AR		

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

Essex Office
27 Eastways
Witham
Essex
CM8 3YQ
tel: +44(0)1376 331470
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.archaeologyse.co.uk

London Office
Centre for Applied Archaeology
UCL Institute of Archaeology
31-34 Gordon Square
London WC1H 0PY
tel: +44(0)20 7679 4778
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
www.ucl.ac.uk/caa