

Albert Place, Strood, Kent.
Archaeological Watching Brief

Planning References: MC2004/2589, MC2006/0146

(TQ 7390 6930)

Site Code: APS 07

Project no. 2574

OASIS ID: archaeol6-31488

By Deon Whittaker

September 2007

Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Fremel Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during works at Albert Place, Kent (TQ 7390 6930). Ground-works involved the excavation of approximately 120 sq metres of modern made ground to a maximum depth of 300mm. A further 400mm was excavated from a 2 sq metre square service trench. No archaeological deposits or finds were recovered. Natural deposits were not encountered.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London, was commissioned by Fremel Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief in advance of the construction of three new residential properties at Albert Place, Strood, Kent. (NGR TQ 7390 6930) (Planning References: MC2004/2589, MC2006/0146) hereafter referred to as 'the site' (Fig. 1).
- 1.2 The Local Planning Authority has placed the following condition on the planning consent:

No development shall take place until the applicant, or their agents or successors in title, has secured the implementation of a watching brief to be undertaken by an archaeologist approved by the Local Planning Authority so that the excavation is observed and items of interest and finds are recorded. The watching brief shall be in accordance with a written programme and specification, which has been submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority.

Reason: To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded.

- 1.3 The aim of the watching brief was to ensure that all archaeological deposits and features exposed during ground works were recorded to a professional archaeological standard and that all artefacts and environmental samples were retrieved where appropriate.
- 1.4 ASE worked to the *Specification for An Archaeological Watching Brief* issued by Kent County Council.
- 1.5 The fieldwork was undertaken by Deon Whittaker (Archaeologist) February 15th and 16th 2007. Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and Louise Rayner (Post-excavation Manager) managed the project.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The site is bounded by Victoria Place to the east and residential properties to the west. The modern ground surface across the majority of the site was recorded at c. 3m OD. According to the British Geological Survey Map Sheet 272 (Chatham) Drift Edition (1:50,000 Scale) the site lies at the junction of Head Brickearth and Alluvium deposits. Proximity to the Medway River could also produce peat deposits.
- 2.2 The development is close to the site of a late 19th to early 20th century terrace that suffered bomb damage during WWII (Sygrave, 2005).

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The objective of the archaeological watching brief was to record any archaeological remains exposed as a result of the groundworks. Particular attention was to be made to the character, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 3.2 Intrusive groundworks were carried out by a machine equipped with a 1.6m wide smooth edged bucket and monitored by an archaeologist until it became clear, beyond reasonable doubt, that no further archaeological remains were present. The site consisted of made ground reduced by 100 – 300mm. The site was piled and services were laid amongst the made ground as it was brought back onto site between the pile supported ground beams.
- 3.5 An Online Access to the Index of Archaeological Investigations (OASIS) form has been completed for the project and is attached as an appendix to this document.
- 3.6 All notified excavations were monitored. Throughout the works the contractor made all the excavations fully accessible to the archaeologist and assisted the archaeologist where necessary.
- 3.7 A full photographic record of the work was kept using digital format and will form part of the site archive.
- 3.8 The written and drawn archive will be deposited in an appropriate museum. The archive will be prepared according the principles of *Management of Archaeological Projects* (English Heritage, 1991) and the requirements of the recipient museum. The archive is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Ditchling.

4.0 RESULTS (see Figure 2)

- 4.1 Approximately 120 sq metres of ground reduction was monitored. The depth of excavation was a maximum of 300mm in the north east of the site, to a minimum of 100mm in the south west of the site. The work started on a deposit of made ground containing very common fragments of modern cbm. This made ground continued for the full extent of the ground reduction.
- 4.2 Approximately 4 sq metres of service trench excavation was monitored. The depth of excavation was 400mm and positioned to the south east of the site. The work started on a deposit of made ground containing very common fragments of modern cbm. This made ground continued for the full extent of the ground reduction. Occasional chalk fragments were noted in addition to the modern cbm. Natural deposits were not

encountered. Piling was carried out with made ground still in place. The spoil from the reduction was replaced after ground beams were positioned and services were laid amongst this redeposited made ground.

5.0 INTERPRETATION AND DISCUSSION

- 5.1 The site is generally characterised by 500mm (at L.O.E.) of modern made ground in the south, which contained C19th - C20th cbm, possibly associated with the bomb damaged terrace mentioned above. In the north of the site 300mm of modern made ground was recorded at L.O.E.

6.0 REFERENCES

Sygrave, J. 2005. *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Albert Place, Strood, Kent*, Unpublished Archaeology South-East Report

SMR Summary Form

Site Code	APS07					
Identification Name and Address	Albert Place Strood					
County, District &/or Borough	Medway, Rochester, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	NGR TQ 7390 6930					
Geology	Head Brickearth and Alluvium					
Arch. South-East Project Number	2574					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban ✓	Deep Urban		Other	
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 15 Feb 2007		Other	
Sponsor/Client	Kent County Council					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Deon Whittaker					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other Modern ✓		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p>Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at the site of Albert Place, Kent TQ 7390 6930. Ground-works involved the excavation of approximately 120 sq metres of modern made ground to a maximum depth of 300mm. A further 400mm was excavated for services from a 2 sq metre trench. No archaeology was recovered. Natural deposits were not encountered.</p>						

Appendix - Oasis Summary Form

1.1 OASIS ID: archaeol6-31488

Project details

Project name	Albert Place Strood
Short description of the project	Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at the site of Albert Place, Kent TQ 7390 6930. Ground-works involved the excavation of approximately 120 sq metres of modern made ground to a maximum depth of 300mm. A further 400mm was excavated for services from a 2 sq metre trench. No archaeology was recovered. Natural deposits were not encountered.
Project dates	Start: 15-02-2007 End: 16-02-2007
Previous/future work	Yes / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	2154 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	2574 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Vacant Land 3 - Despoiled land (contaminated derelict and ?brownfield? sites)
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Planning condition

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT MEDWAY ROCHESTER Albert Place
Postcode	XX00XX

Study area	120.00 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 7390 6930 51.3955027842 0.500010459564 51 23 43 N 000 30 00 E Point
Height OD	Min: 2.50m Max: 3.00m

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Deon Whittaker
Type of sponsor/funding body	Developer
Name of sponsor/funding body	Fremel

Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Digital Archive recipient	Local Museum

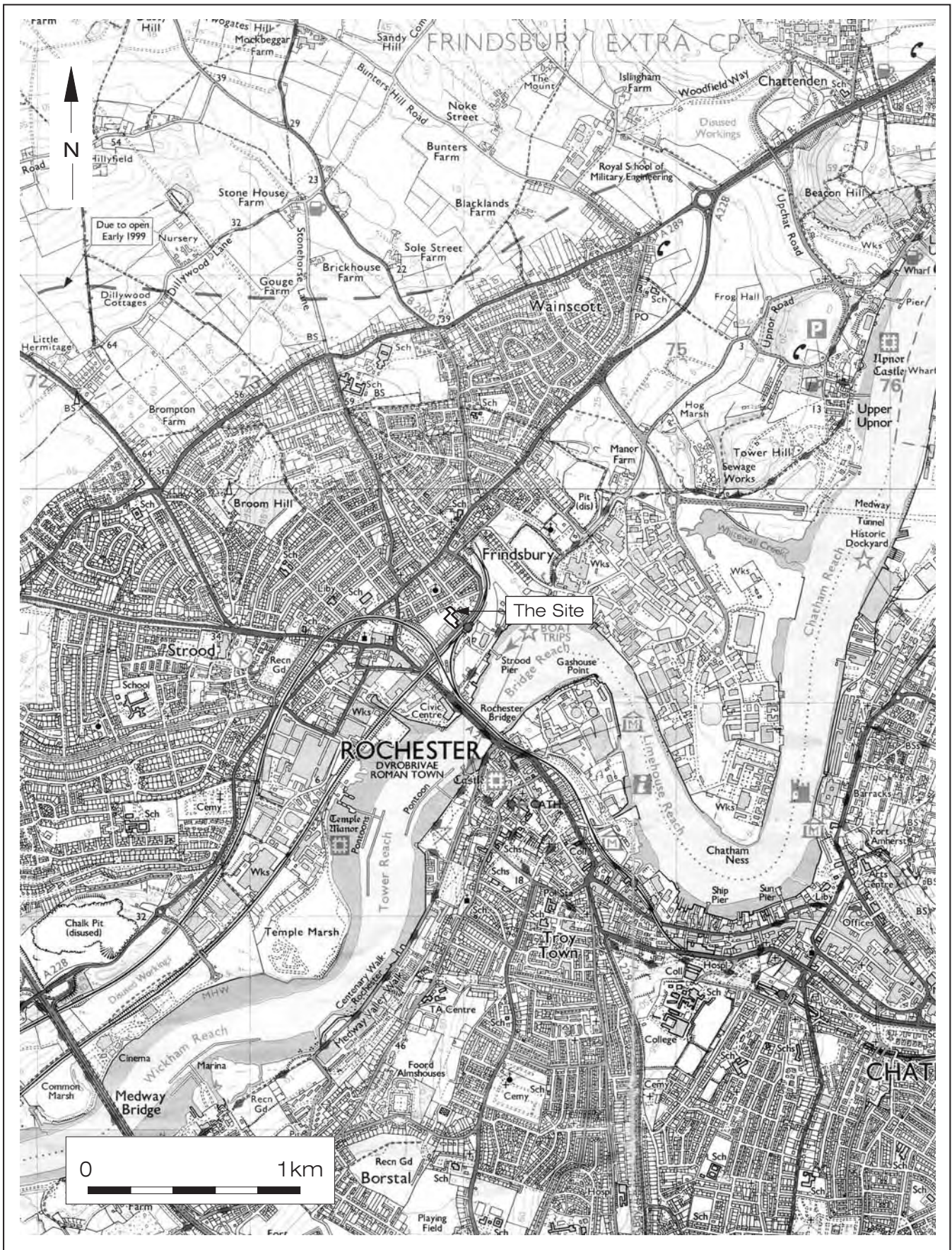
Digital Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital photography'
Paper Archive recipient	Local Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Notebook - Excavation',' Research',' General Notes'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Albert Place Strood Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Whittaker, D.
Date	2007
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South east
Place of issue or publication	Portslade Sussex
Description	Archaeology South East was commissioned to undertake a watching brief at the site of Albert Place, Kent TQ 7390 6930. Ground-works involved the excavation of approximately 120 sq metres of modern made ground to a maximum depth of 300mm. A further 400mm was excavated for services from a 2 sq metre trench. No archaeology was recovered. Natural deposits were not encountered.

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Entered on	17 September 2007

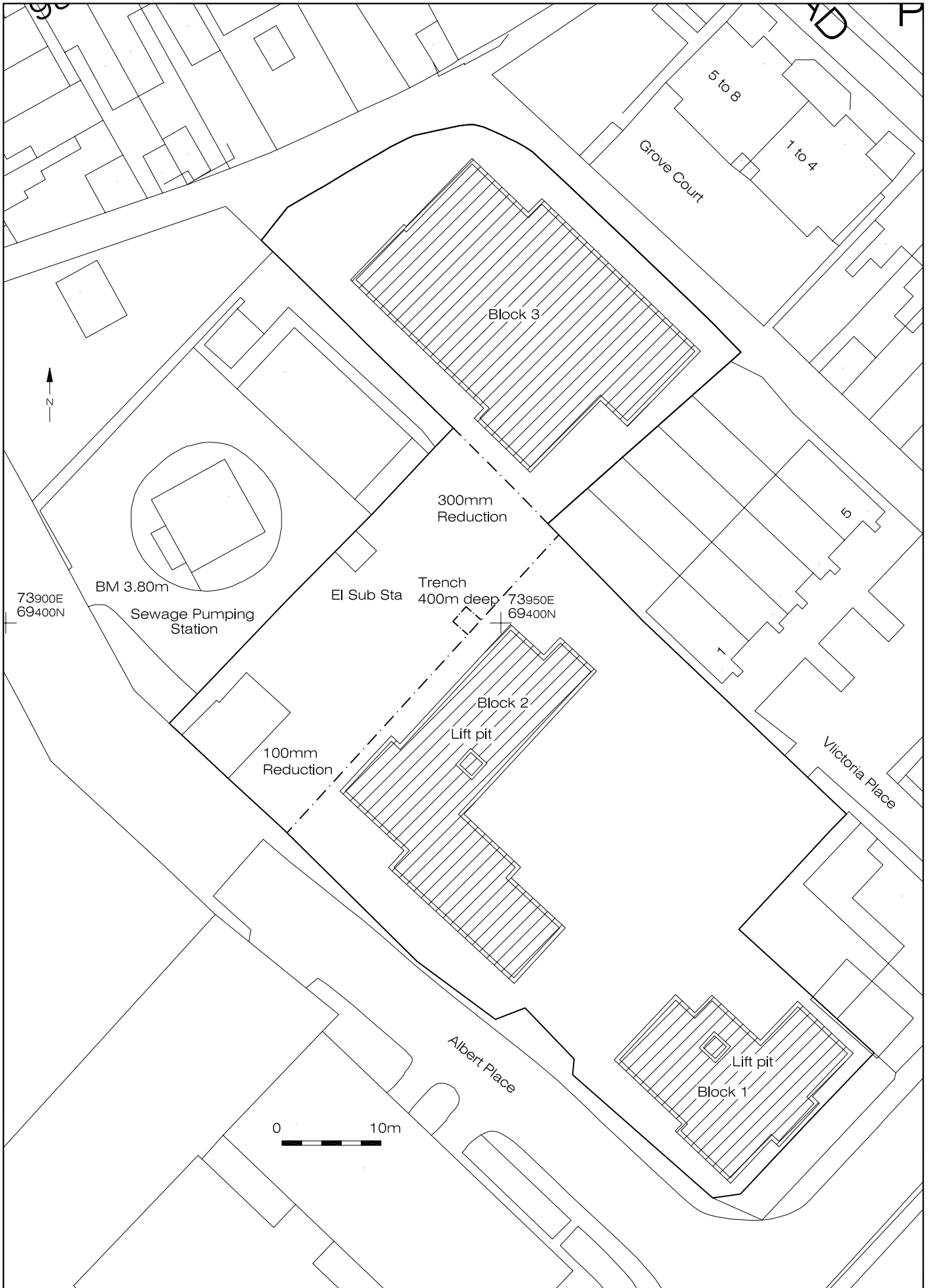
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© Archaeology South-East			Albert Place, Strood	Fig. 1
Ref: 2574	Sept 2007	Drawn by: SM	Site Location Plan	

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© Archaeology South-East			Albert Place, Strood		Fig. 2
Ref: 2574	Sept 2007	Drawn by: SM	Site plan showing excavated area		

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