

**An Archaeological Watching Brief at Icklesham Wastewater Treatment Works,
Icklesham, East Sussex**

Planning Ref: Permitted Development

NGR 589093 116488

Project No: 3823

Site Code: ICK 09

ASE Report No. 2009128

OASIS id: archaeol6-63291

By Nick Garland and Simon Stevens

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Abstract

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with refurbishment and upgrading of Icklesham Wastewater Treatment Works. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during topsoil stripping for a works compound, or during the excavation of a pipe trench for the diversion of an outfall pipe.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

FIGURES

- Figure 1 Site location plan and selected ESCC HER data
- Figure 2 Plan of monitored works

TABLES

- Table 1 Selected sites of archaeological interest held on the ESCC HER
- Table 2 Quantification of Site Archive

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 Black and Veatch on behalf of their client Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during ground works at Icklesham Waste Water Treatment Works, Icklesham, East Sussex (NGR 589093 116488; Figure 1).

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located between the settlements of Icklesham and Winchelsea, East Sussex, approximately 300m to the south of A259. It is situated in a shallow valley which runs from east to west, and is surrounded by fruit orchards and open fields.

1.2.2 According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet 320/321, *Hastings and Dungeness*), the underlying geology at the site consists of Wadhurst Clay and/or Sand in Wadhurst Clay.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Ground works associated with refurbishment and upgrading at the site are designated as *Permitted Development* under the terms of the Water Industry Act of 1991, and therefore did not require planning permission. However archaeological monitoring during such schemes can be undertaken where it is deemed appropriate, in accordance with guidelines outlined in the 1991 Act, and the *Code of Practice on Conservation, Access and Recreation: Guidance for the Environment Agency and Water and Sewerage Undertakers*.

1.3.2 After consultation in October 2007 and a subsequent email exchange on 18th February 2008 between East Sussex County Council (ESCC) and Black and Veatch, on behalf of their client Southern Water, it was established that an archaeological watching brief was to be maintained during ground works at the site.

1.3.3 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI) was produced by ASE, which outlined the scope of work at the site, and stated the following general aims (ASE 2009):

'the general aim of the archaeological work is to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest that will be affected by the intrusive ground works associated with the creation of the site compound and installation of the outfall pipe, are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards and an appropriate report produced.'

1.4 Scope of Report

- 1.4.1 The current report provides results of the watching brief undertaken by a team comprised of Nick Garland and Dylan Hopkinson (Archaeologists), Liane Peyre (Archaeological Assistant) and Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) between the 25th March and 27th July 2009. The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The site lies in an area of East Sussex rich in archaeological remains. The East Sussex County Council Sites Historic Environment Records (ESCHER) contains information on the following sites, all located within a radius of 1km of the site and marked on Figure 1:

ESCC HER No.	Grid Reference	Description	Period
MES3981	TQ 8825 1632	Neolithic Scraper found in Icklesham Manor garden	P
MES3987	TQ 8984 1648	Wickham Manor - late medieval-early post-medieval house. Grade II listed	M-PM
MES3988	TQ 8820 1680	Schedule Monument and Archaeologically Sensitive Area associated with a medieval moated site. Scheduled Monument ES451	M
MES3993	TQ 9000 1740	Deserted medieval village of Iham	M
MES4047	TQ 8890 1700	Romano-British pottery and bloomery slag	R
MES4048	TQ 8950 1650	Bloomery site	U
MES4049	TQ 8920 1615	Roman pottery	R
MES4050	TQ 8960 1620	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4051	TQ 8950 1600	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4052	TQ 8930 1590	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4054	TQ 8880 1540	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4055	TQ 8830 1540	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES 4056	TQ 8840 1540	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4063	TQ 8840 1600	Possible ridge and furrow	M
MES4064	TQ 8830 1600	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4065	TQ 8810 1600	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4066	TQ 8810 1650	Romano-British pottery, tile and furnace material	R
MES4068	TQ 8800 1600	Roman coin of Hadrian (AD 117-138)	R
MES4069	TQ 8800 1670	Prehistoric worked flints	P
MES4071	TQ 8800 1710	Small ditched and banked enclosure	U
MES4091	TQ 8800 1570	Romano-British pottery	R
MES4112	TQ 8957 1575	Royal Military Canal - Napoleonic. Scheduled Monument ES488C	PM
MES8130	TQ 8938 1610	WW2 concrete emplacement - possible former observation post	M
MES8166	TQ 8990 1620	Concrete WW2 pillbox	M

Table 1: Selected sites of archaeological interest held on the ESCC HER
P=prehistoric, R=Roman, M=medieval, PM=post-medieval, M=modern, U=undated

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with the creation of a site compound, and excavations for the diversion of an outfall pipe. Personnel from Archaeology South-East monitored the mechanical excavations, examined all sections for the presence of archaeological features, and scanned all available spoil for 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, 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 our offices in Portslade, and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	6 contexts
No. of files/paper record	1 folder
Plan and sections sheets	None
Bulk Samples	None
Photographs	c.40 digital photos
Bulk finds	None
Registered finds	None
Environmental flots/residue	None

Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

4.1 The Site Compound

4.1.1 An area measuring approximately 22m in length and 18m in width was stripped in two stages under constant archaeological monitoring. A mechanical topsoil strip was followed by the removal of part of the subsoil to reach the required formation level. The following deposits were encountered:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max. Thickness
01	Deposit	Topsoil	Area	Area	100mm
02	Deposit	Subsoil	Area	Area	n/a

4.1.2 The topsoil in this area was a mid brown silty clay [01] which reached an approximate depth of 100mm. Modern finds such as pottery, brick, glass and metal pieces were observed during the topsoil excavations. The topsoil overlay subsoil [02]. The subsoil was a mid orangey brown silty clay with inclusions such as modern pottery, bricks and glass. Some charcoal was also observed in this layer.

4.1.3 During the course of the ground works, it became clear that the 'natural' horizon would not be reached during the creation of the compound, and therefore any significant archaeological deposits would not be disturbed in this area. After consultation with Greg Chuter, archaeologist for ESCC, it was deemed unnecessary to continue monitoring this phase of works.

4.2 The Outfall Pipe

4.2.1 The mechanical excavation of a c.80m long trench (and associated man-hole at the eastern end) for the laying of a new outfall pipe was monitored. The man-hole measured 3m by 3m by 1.2m deep; the pipe trench was a maximum of 800mm wide and a maximum of 1.3m deep. The following deposits were encountered:

Context	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Deposit Thickness
03	Deposit	Topsoil	Trench	Trench	150mm
04	Deposit	Subsoil	Trench	Trench	300mm
05	Deposit	'Natural'	Trench	Trench	n/a
06	Deposit	'Natural'	20m	Trench	n/a

4.2.2 The 150mm thick deposit of topsoil [03] encountered along the entire length of the trench was similar in colour and texture to the topsoil deposit found during the compound area monitoring, although it contained no modern debris. It overlay a layer of mid-greyish brown silty clay subsoil [04] with a maximum thickness of 300mm.

- 4.2.3 The subsoil directly overlay a brownish yellow/yellowish brown 'natural' clayey silt [05], which contained some deposits of laminar sandstone. This deposit extended to the base of the trench for the majority of its length. However, for the westernmost 20m it overlay a mid-grey clayey silt deposit [06] which was visible in the bottom c.200mm of the trench, at a depth of 1m below the ground surface. It is possible that this was an alluvial deposit.
- 4.2.4 Given the depth and width of the trench, it was impossible to examine this deposit [06] in detail, but examination of available spoil showed no signs of trapped organic material or of other artefacts.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the archaeological monitoring of the ground works at the site. Clearly the mechanical stripping of an area for the location of the compound was not sufficiently deep for archaeological deposits to be disturbed.
- 5.2 Although the man-hole chamber and pipe trench for the outfall diversion were certainly deep enough for the exposure of such deposits, none were encountered during the monitoring. Although the possible alluvial deposit [06] encountered at the western end of the outfall is of potential geoarchaeological significance, it could not be investigated at this time on grounds of health and safety, and its true significance remains uncertain.
- 5.3 Arguably the complete absence of archaeological features or artefacts is a result of the topographic situation of the site. Given the presence of higher, drier ground in the vicinity (to the south at Wickham Manor, and further to the east and west at Winchelsea and Icklesham respectively) the site does not offer an attractive location for settlement.
- 5.4 However, given the archaeological sensitivity of the general area, the instigation of an archaeological watching brief was prudent.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2008. *Icklesham Waste Water Treatment Works: Archaeological Watching Brief – Written Scheme of Investigation*, Unpub. Document

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The input of Laura Baines of Black and Veatch, Greg Chuter, ESCC, and Paula Cruttenden, the site agent are gratefully acknowledged. Thanks are also due to the on-site contractors from Dean and Dyball Civil Engineering for their co-operation.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	ICK 09					
Identification Name and Address	Icklesham Wastewater Treatment Works, Icklesham, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	Rother District, East Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	589093 116488					
Geology	Wadhurst Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3823					
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. 25/03/09 to 27/07/09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Black and Veatch on behalf of Southern Water					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Nick Garland and Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with refurbishment and upgrading of Icklesham Wastewater Treatment Works. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during topsoil stripping for a works compound, or during the excavation of a pipe trench for the diversion of an outfall pipe.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeo16-63291

Project details

Project name Icklesham Wastewater Treatment Works

Short description of the project An archaeological watching brief was maintained during ground works associated with refurbishment and upgrading of Icklesham Wastewater Treatment Works. No significant archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during topsoil stripping for a works compound, or during the excavation of a pipe trench for the diversion of an outfall pipe.

Project dates Start: 25-03-2009 End: 27-07-2009

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes 3823 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes ICK 09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Water Industry Act of 1991

Project location

Country England

Site location EAST SUSSEX ROTHER ICKLESHAM Icklesham Wastewater Treatment Works

Paper Archive recipient local museum

Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Miscellaneous Material', 'Photograph', 'Report', 'Unpublished Text'

Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

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Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

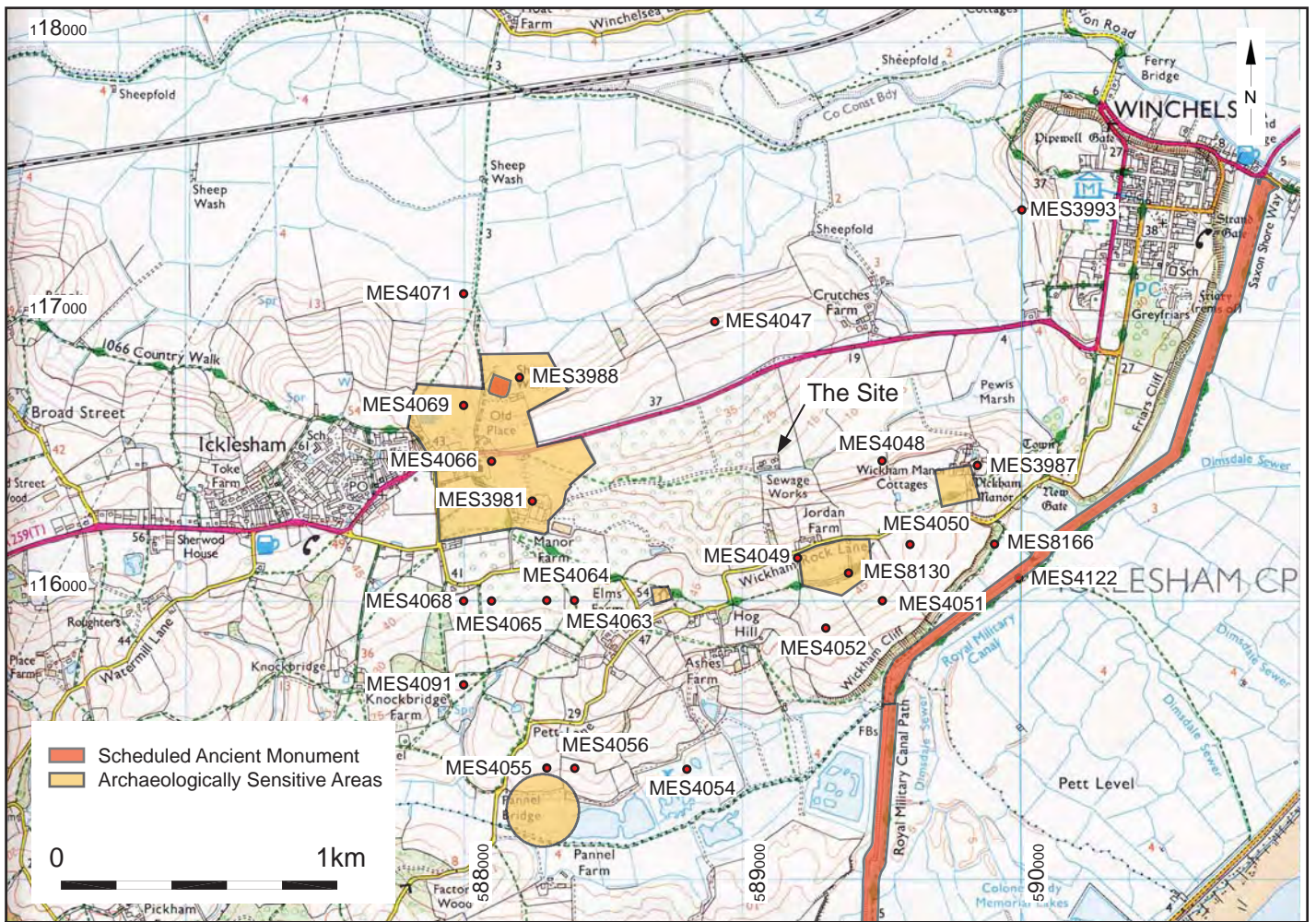
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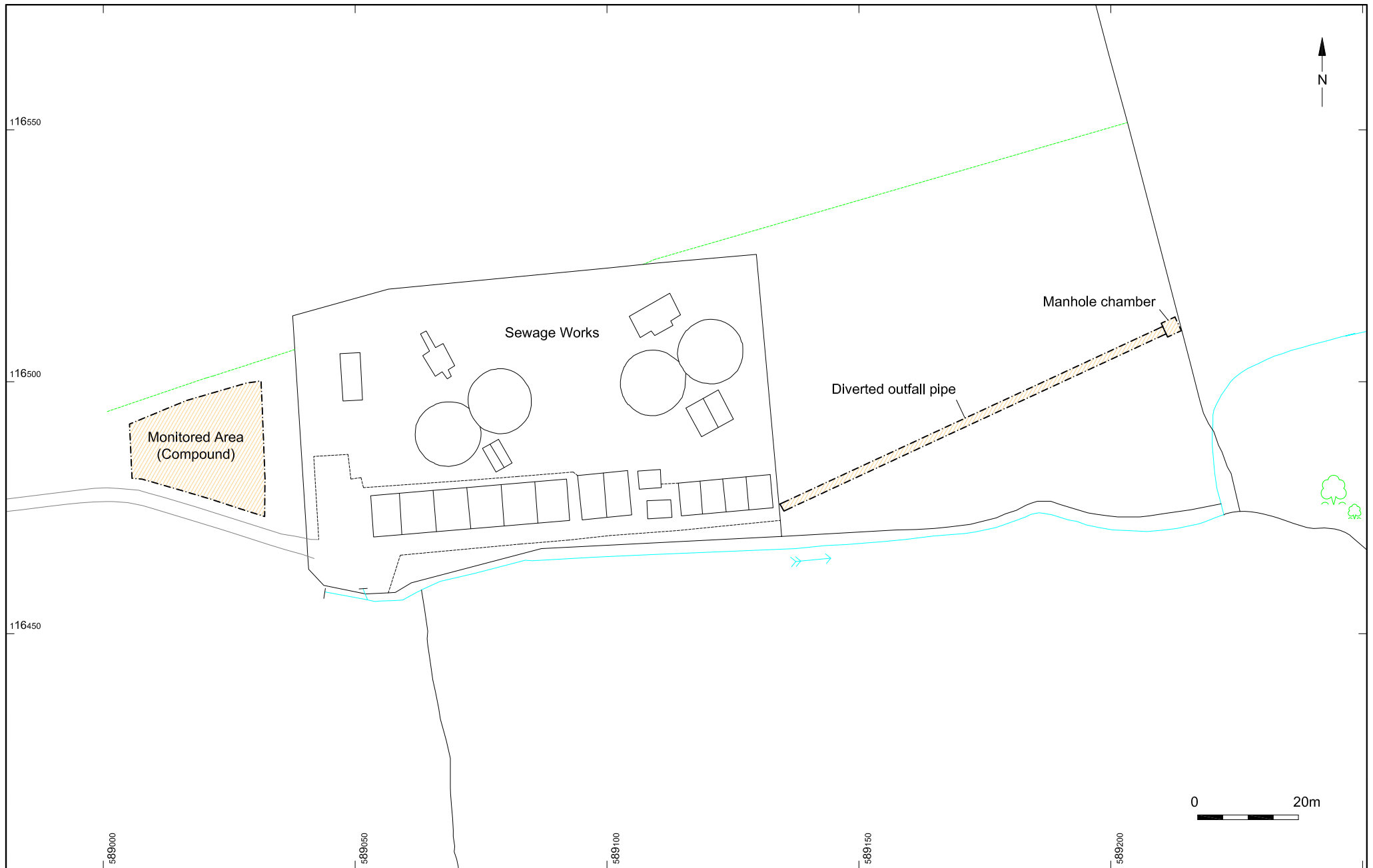
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Description Standard ASE client report; A4-sized with cover photo and logos.



© Archaeology South-East		Icklesham Waste Water Treatment Works	Fig. 1
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Report Ref: 2009128	Drawn by: JLR		

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© Archaeology South-East		Icklesham Waste Water Treatment Works	Fig. 2
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Report Ref: 2009128	Drawn by: DH/JR		

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