

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Offham Water Treatment Works
Offham, East Sussex**

**NGR: 540133 112270
(TQ 40133 12270)**

**Project No: 4651
Site Code: OFF 10**

**ASE Report No: 2011206
OASIS id: archaeol6-109723**

**By Chris Russel
With contributions by Sarah Porteus,
Elke Raemen and Luke Barber**

October 2011

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Offham Water Treatment Works
Offham, East Sussex**

**NGR: 540133 112270
(TQ 40133 12270)**

**Project No: 4651
Site Code: OFF 10**

**ASE Report No: 2011206
OASIS id: archaeol6-109723**

**By Chris Russel
With contributions by Sarah Porteus,
Elke Raemen and Luke Barber**

October 2011

**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 were commissioned by 4Delivery Limited on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive ground works associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at Offham, East Sussex. The work was undertaken from the 8th of August to the 17th of August 2011.

No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the ground works although an assemblage of mostly later post-medieval finds was recovered from topsoil and made ground deposits. This assemblage is consistent with post medieval agricultural activity at the site. No finds or features of medieval date were recorded during the watching brief.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Methodology**
- 4.0 Results**
- 5.0 The Finds**
- 6.0 Discussion and Conclusions**

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

TABLES

- Table 1: Summary of ESCC HER records
- Table 2: Quantification of site archive
- Table 3: List of recorded contexts
- Table 4: Quantification of the finds

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location and HER data
- Figure 2: Site plan
- Figure 3: Photographs

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

- 1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), University College London (UCL), were commissioned by 4Delivery Limited (hereafter 4D) on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive ground works associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at Offham, East Sussex (NGR TQ 540133 112270; Figures 1 & 2).
- 1.2 Works were intermittently monitored between the 8th August and the 17th of August 2011. Greg Chuter, Assistant County Archaeology Officer, East Sussex County Council (ESCC), was kept informed of the work.

1.2 Geology and Topography

- 1.2.1 The British Geographical Survey shows the site is located on the Lewes Nodular Chalk Formation with superficial head deposits of silt, sand and gravel immediately to the north (BGS 2011).
- 1.2.2 The existing treatment works is situated on a terrace cut into a small hill at the north-eastern extent of the site and is served by an unmetalled farm track.

1.3 Planning Background

- 1.3.1 Due to the archaeological potential of the site an archaeological planning condition (LW/656/CMS) was imposed and Greg Chuter required that an archaeological watching brief to monitor the impacts of the proposed works was conducted.
- 1.3.2 All ground work associated with the scheme (including the creation of a temporary site compound) were to be monitored in the watching brief.
- 1.3.3 Accordingly, a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (WSI; ASE 2010) for the watching brief was submitted to and approved by Greg Chuter.
- 1.3.4 All work was carried out in accordance with this WSI (*ibid*), the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008) and East Sussex Country Council's, Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording And Post Excavation Work (ESCC 2008).

1.4 Aims and Objectives

- 1.4.1 In general, the aim of the watching brief was to record, interpret and report on any archaeological and palaeoenvironmental remains, including artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest, exposed during groundworks associated with the scheme to appropriate archaeological standards.
- 1.4.2 The watching brief would also assess any past impacts on the site and pay particular attention to the character, height/depth below ground level, condition, date and significance of the deposits.
- 1.4.3 The sole site specific aim outlined in the WSI (ASE 2010) was;
- To ascertain if there was any evidence for mediaeval activity associated with the settlement of Offham on the site.

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks at the site. The work was undertaken between the 8th of August and the 17th of August 2011 by Chris Russel (Archaeologist), John Cook (Archaeologist) and Sarah Porteus (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following information is drawn from a 1 km radius search of the Historic Environment Record (HER) held at ESCC centred on NGR 540133 12270. The results of the search are summarised below and locations have been plotted onto Figure 1.

ESCC HER No	OS Co-ordinates (TQ)	Description
EES13925	TQ 409 114	12 th /13 th century ditches associated with a College of Benedictine Canons
EES9618	TQ 399 117	Neolithic Enclosure
EES8992	TQ 399 119	Neolithic causewayed enclosure
EES8994	TQ 392 119	Barrow excavation
MES1484	TQ 41 12	C16th timber framed house
MES1487	TQ 4001 1131	Bronze Age Barrow
MES1492	TQ 3989 1237	C17th house
MES1493	TQ 3928 1240	C17th Manor house
MES1505	TQ 391 118	Saxon barrow
MES1506	TQ 3939 1128	Bronze Age barrow
MES1507	TQ 3982 1157	Two Bronze Age barrows
MES1508	TQ 3986 1166	Three Bronze Age bowl-barrows
MES1509	TQ 399 116	Bronze Age inhumation burials
MES1510	TQ 3997 1137	Two Bronze Age round barrows
MES1516	TQ 3989 1176	Neolithic Causewayed enclosure
MES1519	TQ 3997 1160	C19th chalk pit
MES1520	TQ 398 118	WWII slit trenches
MES1604	TQ 4096 1137	Pre-medieval secular college
MES1610	TQ 4158 1015	Roman coin and boars tusks
MES2018	TQ 401 116	C19th tunnel
MES7207	TQ 392 124	C13th brooch
MES7455	TQ 4110 1255	Post-medieval building
MES7456	TQ 4114 1267	Post-medieval building
MES7457	TQ 4101 1277	Post-medieval mansion
MES7458	TQ 4103 1285	Post-medieval vicarage building
MES7459	TQ 4091 1292	Post-medieval farm
MES7526	TQ 4052 1278	Undated earthwork
MES7541	TQ 4100 1280	Medieval settlement
MES7542	TQ 4100 1250	Medieval settlement
MES7626	TQ 4050 1170	C20th pillbox
MES7628	TQ 4050 1170	C20th pillbox
MES7679	TQ 4093 1209	C20th pillbox
MES7680	TQ 4107 1229	C20th pillbox
MES7682	TQ 4010 1230	C20th searchlight battery
MES8327	TQ 4045 1200	C19th river cut (Ouse navigation)
MES8328	TQ 4106 1218	C19th river cut (Ouse navigation)
MES8337	TQ 4040 1168	C19th river cut (Ouse navigation)
MES8339	TQ 4011 1159	C18th/C19th tramway

Table 1: Summary of ESCC HER records within 1.25km of NGR 540133 12270

- 2.2 On 11th January 2011 an archaeological watching brief was carried out during geotechnical investigations undertaken at the site. The work consisted of the sinking of an 8m borehole and the hand-digging of five test pits to the depth of the natural chalk geology. The results of this watching brief are summarised below.
- 2.3 The natural chalk was present c. 300mm below ground level in test pits 1, 3 and 4, overlain by a thin spread of made ground, 100mm thick, containing residual medieval pottery and sealed by a topsoil layer on average 200mm thick. Test pit 2 contained 250mm of topsoil directly overlying the natural chalk. In test pit 5 the natural chalk was sealed by a colluvial deposit 730mm thick, in turn sealed by topsoil, 270mm thick.

3.0 METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 The intrusive groundworks comprised of a soil strip for the site compound, a soil strip for an access road and a topsoil strip in the footprint of the new package plant.
- 3.2 Any intrusive ground works associated with the development were monitored by an archaeologist. Any machine used for removal of material above undisturbed natural subsoil was fitted with a toothless bucket of appropriate width wherever practicable.
- 3.3 Where new excavations revealed archaeological remains, an opportunity was made for careful hand excavation and the collection of samples by the archaeologist in attendance taking site health and safety into account. Adequate time was made available for appropriate archaeological excavation by hand to identify and record the remains as far as possible within the limits of the works in order to extract archaeological information.
- 3.4 This approach enabled any archaeological deposits disturbed during the proposed works to be adequately recorded in line with the advice given in PPS: 5 which has replaced PPG: 16.
- 3.5 The spoil from the excavations was also inspected by archaeologists to recover artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest and was routinely scanned with a metal detector.
- 3.6 Greg Chuter was kept informed of progress so that he could monitor the archaeological work.
- 3.7 All archaeological features were recorded according to standard ASE practice. Where practicable, all features were planned at 1:20 and section drawings were at 1:10. Drawings were made on plastic draughting film. Features and deposits were described on standard pro-forma recording sheets used by ASE. All remains were levelled with respect to Ordnance Survey datum. A photographic record was made in both monochrome and colour transparency.
- 3.8 ASE informed Lewes Museum prior to the commencement of fieldwork that a site archive would be generated. The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be deposited at Lewes museum in due course. Lewes Museum does not give out archive accession numbers.

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Plan and sections sheets	0
Bulk Samples	0
Photographs	41 (digital)
Bulk finds	2 bags
Registered finds	0
Environmental flots/residue	0

Table 2: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS (Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following groundworks were subject to archaeological monitoring:

- The machine reduction of the site compound
- The machine reduction of the access road
- The machine reduction of the new package plant footprint

Number	Type	Description	Max. Length	Max. Width	Max Thickness
001	Deposit	Topsoil	-	-	0.75m
002	Deposit	Made Ground	-	-	0.25m
003	Deposit	Chalk Geology	-	-	-
004	Deposit	Colluvium			0.60m

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Summary

Works Compound

4.2.1 The works compound was stripped of topsoil [001] which consisted of loose dark grey brown silt which was seen to 0.75m deep. The south-east of the compound strip contained a localised made ground deposit [002] and this consisted of a loose mid grey brown fine silt with very frequent brick and ceramic building material (CBM) inclusions. No archaeological features were observed during the compound strip.

Road Strip

4.2.2 The southern portion of the road strip revealed natural chalk geology [003] at 250mm below ground level (BGL). The base of a set of tyre ruts was observed in the chalk. Above this was 160-250mm of topsoil [001] in which wheel ruts were also visible. These ruts contained pottery, glass and CBM, presumably as informal consolidation of the farm track.

4.2.3 Further north, the chalk geology was encountered at 400-440mm BGL and this was overlain by a colluvial deposit [004]. This colluvial deposit was made up of loose, light grey fine silt with very common sub angular chalk fragments. Above this was 160-190mm of topsoil [001] which was identical to the deposit described above.

Package Plant Strip

4.2.4 This revealed chalk geology at 500mm BGL overlain by topsoil [001] to ground level.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 An assemblage of finds was recovered from contexts [001] and [002]. A summary is given in Table 4. Finds were all washed and dried or air-dried as appropriate. They were counted, weighed and bagged by context and by material. No further conservation is required.

Table 4: Quantification of the finds

Context	Pottery	Wt (g)	CBM	Wt (g)	Bone	Wt (g)	Shell	Wt (g)	Flint	Wt (g)	Fe	Wt (g)	Glass	Wt (g)	CTP	Wt (g)
002	16	270	4	244	5	192	1	10	1	36	1	18	2	146		
001	10	48	1	32											1	4

5.2 The Ceramic Building Material by Sarah Porteus

5.2.1 Four fragments of peg tile were recovered during the watching brief, all the fragments were in a fine orange fabric with fine micaceous speckling and sparse black iron rich inclusions and sparse fine flint inclusions of 18th to 19th century date.

5.3 The Glass by Elke Raemen

5.3.1 A green glass wine bottle neck from a shaft-and-globe bottle was recovered from made ground [002]. The fragment dates between the mid 17th- to mid 18th-century, probably to the second half of the 17th century.

5.4 The Clay Tobacco Pipe by Elke Raemen

5.4.1 A plain stem fragment was recovered from topsoil [001]. The piece is unmarked and dates to c. 1750-1910.

5.5 The Pottery by Luke Barber

- 5.5.1 The archaeological work recovered a small assemblage of pottery all of which is of late post-medieval date. The material is in quite fragmentary condition but is not particularly abraded suggesting low to moderate reworking.
- 5.5.2 Context [001] contained a couple of sherds (14g) from late pearlware plates with blue floral and willow-pattern transfer-printing. Four further plate fragments (13g), also with blue willow-pattern decoration, in refined white earthenware were also recovered along with a plate and jug handle with black transfer-printing (19g). Single sherds of yellow ware (2g) with blue mocha decoration and English porcelain (a cup: 2g) with blue transfer-printed foliage design are also present. The date range for this assemblage is 1830-1900.
- 5.5.3 Context [002] contained a similar assemblage of domestic wares to [001] though one or two pieces are definitely of a slightly later date. Vessels represented consist of a glazed red earthenware bowl (1/18g), a yellow ware mixing bowl with internal white slip and moulded external star decoration (1/19g), a blue transfer-printed ware serving dish with sea scene (1/30g) and two undiagnostic bodysherds of plain refined white earthenware (2/17g). The date range for the assemblage from context [002] is 1850-1900.
- 5.5.4 The assemblage is not considered to hold any potential for further analysis and is recommended for discard.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 No archaeological features were encountered during the course of the ground works. In relation to the site specific aims outlined in the WSI (ASE 2010) no finds or features of medieval date were recorded during the watching brief.
- 6.2 An assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief from topsoil [001] and made ground [002]. The artefacts from this assemblage were mostly later post-medieval in date. It seems reasonable to assume that those from context [002] were deposited in an attempt to consolidate the informal farm track which existed on site.
- 6.3 No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the groundworks and the finds recovered during the watching brief were consistent with post-medieval agricultural activity at the site.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2010. *Offham Water Treatment Works, Offham, East Sussex. Written Scheme of Investigation for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpublished specification.

BGS 2011. British Geological Survey, *Geology of Britain Viewer*, accessed 09.08.2011. http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

English Heritage 2002, *Environmental Archaeology. A guide to the theory and practice of methods from sampling and recovery to post-excavation*. Centre for Archaeology Guidelines

ESCC 2008, *Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex*.

IfA 2008, *Standards and guidance for an archaeological watching brief*

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank 4D for commissioning the work as well as Greg Chuter (ESCC) for his help and guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	OFF10					
Identification Name and Address	Offham Water Treatment Works, Offham, East Sussex					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex, Lewes					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 540133 112270					
Geology	Lewes Nodular Chalk					
Arch. South-East Project Number	4651					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other Water Treatment Works		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 14 th Mar – 1 st Apr 2011	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Chris Russel					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS X	MED X	PM	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4Delivery Limited on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive ground works associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at Offham, East Sussex. The work was undertaken from the 8th of August to the 17th of August 2011. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the ground works although an assemblage of mostly later post-medieval finds was recovered from topsoil and made ground deposits. This assemblage is consistent with post medieval agricultural activity at the site. No finds or features of medieval date were recorded during the watching brief.</p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-109723

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Offham Water Treatment works, Offham, East Sussex.
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East were commissioned by 4Delivery Limited on behalf of Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during intrusive ground works associated with the enlargement of the existing water treatment works at Offham, East Sussex. The work was undertaken from the 8th of August to the 17th of August 2011. No significant archaeological remains were encountered during the ground works although an assemblage of mostly later post-medieval finds was recovered from topsoil and made ground deposits. This assemblage is consistent with post mediaeval agricultural activity at the site. No finds or features of medieval date were recorded during the watching brief.
Project dates	Start: 08-08-2011 End: 17-08-2011
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	OFF10 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	4651 - Contracting Unit No.
Type of project	Field evaluation
Site status	None
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities

Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	CERAMICS Modern
Methods & techniques	'Visual Inspection'
Development type	Service infrastructure (e.g. sewage works, reservoir, pumping station, etc.)
Prompt	Planning condition
Position in the planning process	After full determination (eg. As a condition)

Project location

Country	England
Site location	EAST SUSSEX LEWES HAMSEY Offham Water Treatment Works
Postcode	BN7 3PX
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 540133 112270 50.8794024422 0.189522132119 50 52 45 N 000 11 22 E Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	4 Delivery Ltd
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin
Project supervisor	Chris Russel
Type of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd

Project archives

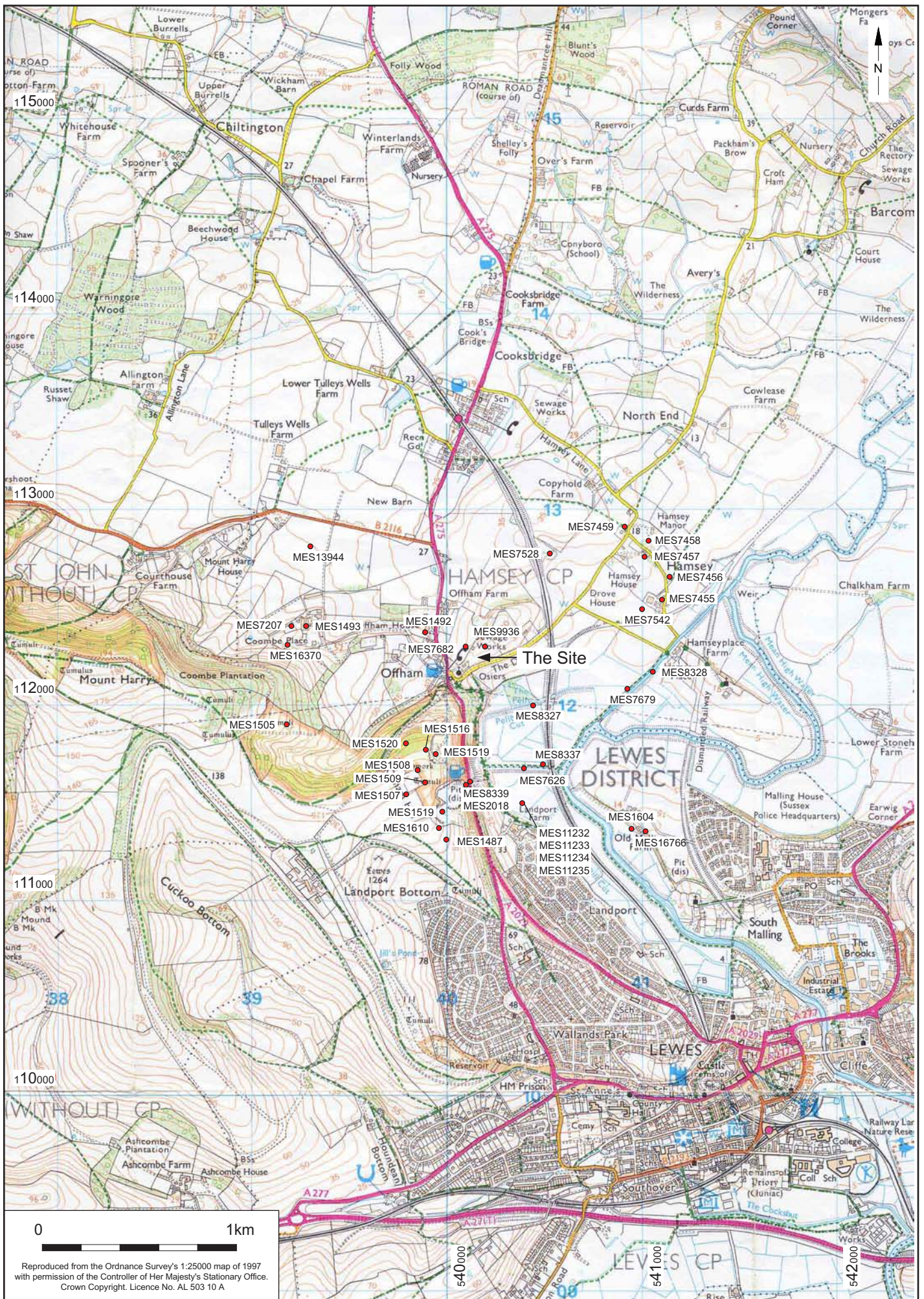
Physical Archive recipient	Local Museum
Physical Contents	'Ceramics','Worked stone/lithics'
Digital Archive recipient	local museum
Digital Media available	'Images raster / digital'

	photography'
Paper Archive recipient	local museum
Paper Media available	'Context sheet', 'Manuscript', 'Report'

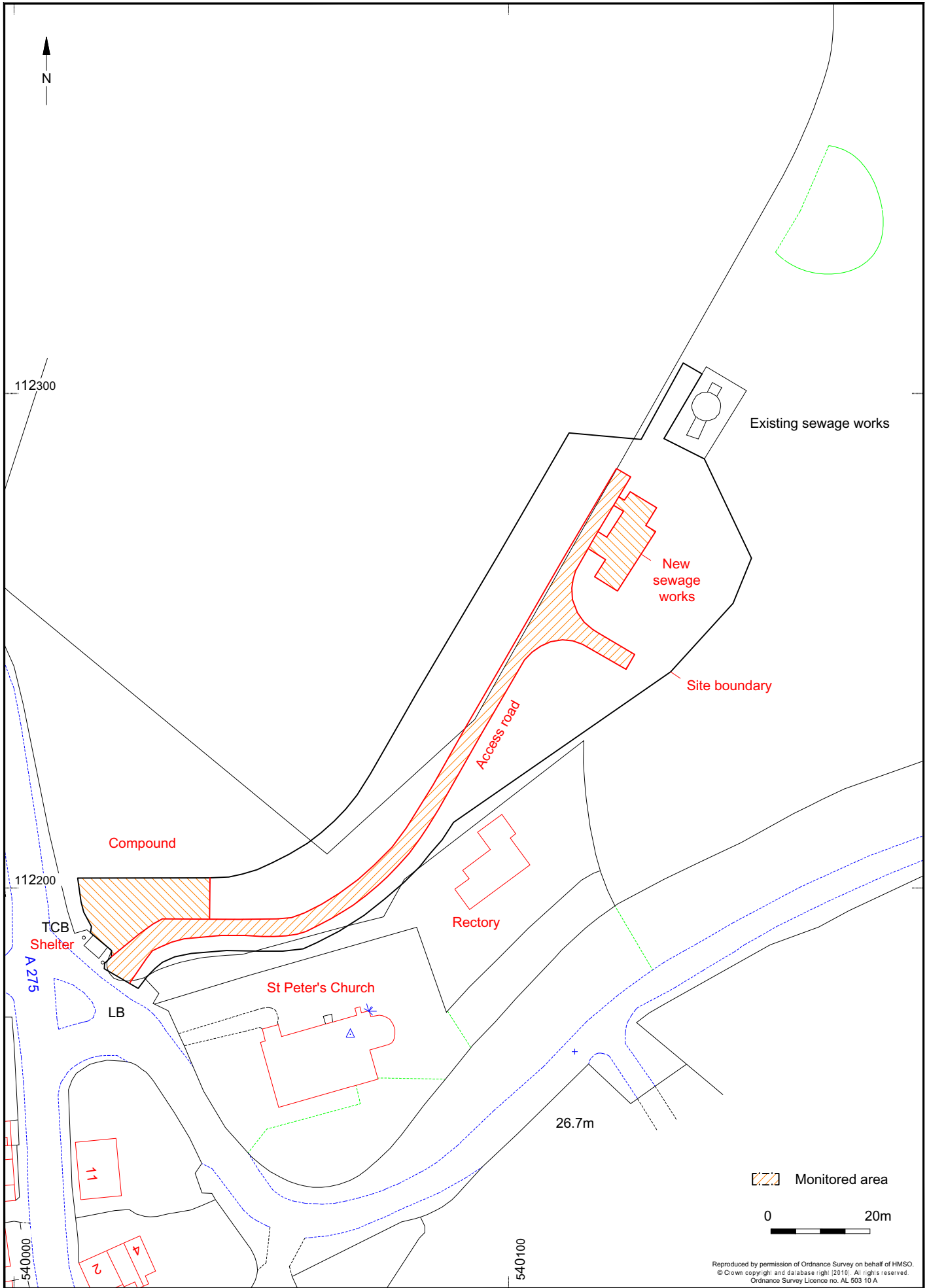
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An Archaeological watching Brief at Offham Water treatment Works, Offham, East Sussex.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Russel, C.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No:2011206
Date	2011
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South east.
Place of issue or publication	Portslade

Entered by	Chris Russel (c.russel@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	12 September 2011



© Archaeology South-East		Offham WTW	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 4651	Aug 2011	Site location and HER data	
Report Ref: 2011206	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Offham WTW	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 4651	Sept 2011	Site plan showing monitored areas	
Report Ref: 2011206	Drawn by: JLR		



Topsoil strip for Haul Road with consolidated wheel ruts evident



Machine reduction of road strip



Machine reduction of road strip



Machine reduction of road strip



Machine reduction of package plant footprint



Machine reduction of package plant footprint

© Archaeology South-East		Offham WTW	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 4651	Sept 2011	Site photographs	
Report Ref: 2011206	Drawn by: JLR		

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

The contracts division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology, University College London 

©Archaeology South-East