

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Dial Post Water Treatment Works
Bentons Lane, Dial Post
West Sussex**

**NGR 515044 19492
(TQ 150 949)**



**ASE Project No: 5341
Site Code: DPW12**

**ASE Report No: 2012057
OASIS ID: archaeol6-120069**

By Diccon Hart

March 2012

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of a temporary compound at Dial Post Water Treatment Works site, Bentons Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex.

No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work. A sequence of Weald Clay, overlain by a thin and discontinuous subsoil horizon, in turn overlain by the topsoil horizon of the site was recorded across the site. However, as monitored groundworks were limited to topsoil stripping only, the surviving subsoil horizon was left intact, making the task of identifying archaeological features cut into the underlying natural geology difficult. The lack of finds within the topsoil horizon suggests that significant archaeological remains may not be present in the monitored area.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Introduction

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 4 Delivery Ltd (4D) to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping of a temporary compound at Dial Post Water Treatment Works (WTW) site, Bentons Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 515044 119492 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the site lies on Weald Clay (BGS 2012). The site is situated at around 21m OD and comprises pasture immediately to the east of the existing WTW site.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Although no planning permission was required for the proposed scheme of works, 4D consulted John Mills, Senior Archaeologist, West Sussex County Council (WSCC). John Mills agreed that, in view of the small size of the present site, archaeological assessment or mitigation of proposed works within the site boundary was not required but that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during topsoil stripping of a temporary compound immediately to the east of the existing WTW site.

1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* outlining the requirements for the archaeological work was subsequently produced (ASE 2012). All work was carried out in accordance with this document and with the relevant standards and guidance of the Institute for Archaeologists (IfA 2008).

1.4 Scope of Report

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological watching brief undertaken on 22nd February during topsoil stripping of the site by Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Neil Griffin (Project Manager) and post-excavation by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 A 1km radius search of the WSCC Historic Environment Record (HER) was undertaken prior to commencement of the fieldwork. The results of this are summarised in Table 1.

HER No.	NGR (TQ)	Description
EWS745	16047 20984	Geophysical Survey undertaken on A24 Ashington to Southwater proposed realignment identified anomalies of possible archaeological origin within four separate fields (see MWS7500 below)
DWS6645	15480 19444	Grade II Listed Building. <i>Alma Cottage</i> . 18 th -century, clad in 19 th -century
DWS6627	15426 19440	Grade II Listed Building. <i>Dial Post House</i> . Dated 1712
DWS5996	15516 19496	Grade II Listed Building. <i>Hazel Cottage</i> . 17 th -century or earlier timber-framed building with plaster infilling
DWS4951	15590 19596	Grade II Listed Building. <i>New Lodge</i> . Early 19 th -century exterior to a possibly older building
DWS6117	15108 18538	Grade II Listed Building. <i>Platt's Green Cottage</i> . 17 th -century timber-framed cottage with plaster infilling
DWS6643	15389 20358	Grade II Listed Building. <i>Sherwoods</i> . Formerly 2 cottages. Probably 17 th -century
DWS6642	15654 20280	Grade II Listed Building. 18 th 0-century. <i>Swallows FARMHOUSE</i> . Two parallel ranges
DWS4927	15589 18933	Grade II Listed Building. <i>Thistleworth Farmhouse</i> . L-shaped 17 th -century or earlier timber-framed building
DWS6116	15136 18867	Grade II Listed Building. <i>Woodman's Stud</i> . L-shaped 17 th -century or earlier timber-framed building
MWS5637	15250 18850	1885 OS map depicts a place called 'Moat Cottage', with a feature to the NW which suggests that it is a possible moated site
MWS6729	15420 19494	Archaeology South-East. Jul 1999. An archaeological watching brief at Worthing Road, Dial Post, Near Horsham
MWS7500	15362 19066	Linear, curvilinear and rectilinear features were picked up, which are likely to be of archaeological origin. Some strong dipolar anomalies were also picked up, indicating the location of ferrous objects within the topsoil.
MWS7501	15833 19730	Numerous anomalies were encountered during a geophysical survey including rectilinear longitudinal, linear, curvilinear and anomalies indicating ferrous metal. The anomalies are likely to have archaeological origin.

Table 1: Summary of information held on WSCC HER within 1km of the site

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Methodology

- 3.1.1 All soil stripping was undertaken using a mechanical excavator fitted with a toothless grading bucket, under the constant supervision of the author. All spoil from the machine excavations was scanned for the presence of any artefacts, both visually and using a metal detector.
- 3.1.2 All encountered deposits were recorded in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2012) and with the relevant Standards and Guidance of the Institute of Archaeologists (IfA 2008), using *pro-forma* recording sheets.
- 3.1.3 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive. The archive (quantified in Table 2) is presently held at Archaeology South-East offices in Portslade and will be submitted to Horsham Museum who has agreed to accept the archive at the end of the project.

3.2 Aims and Objectives

- 3.2.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to monitor topsoil stripping of the temporary compound to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

3.3 Quantification of Archive

Number of Contexts	3
No. of files/paper record	1 file
Plan and sections sheets	none
Bulk Samples	none
Photographs	10 Digital
Bulk finds	none
Registered finds	none
Environmental flots/residue	none

Table 2: Site archive quantification

4.0 RESULTS

(Figures 2 and 3)

4.1 Introduction

- 4.1.1 Monitored groundworks comprised topsoil stripping of an area measuring c. 21.00m by c. 28.00m, situated immediately to the east of the existing WTW site (Fig. 2). A total of three contexts were recorded. These are summarised in Table 2 below.

Number	Type	Description	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth
001	Deposit	Topsoil	28.00m	21.00m	0.25m
002	Deposit	Subsoil	28.00m	21.00m	0.10m
003	Deposit	Natural	28.00m	21.00m	-

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

4.2 Results

- 4.2.1 The recorded sequence consisted of natural Weald Clay (003), overlain by a thin and discontinuous subsoil horizon of mid- yellowish-brown silty-clay (002), in turn sealed by the topsoil horizon (001), consisting of mid- greyish-brown silty-clay.
- 4.2.2 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work. However, as monitored groundworks were limited to topsoil stripping only, the surviving subsoil horizon was left intact, making the task of identifying archaeological features cut into the underlying natural geology difficult.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the archaeological watching brief. While this may, in part, be due to the masking effect of the subsoil horizon that was left intact across the monitored area, the lack of finds within the topsoil horizon suggests that significant archaeological remains may not be present in the monitored area.

Bibliography

ASE 2012 *An Archaeological Watching Brief at Dial Post Water Treatment Works, Bentons Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex*. Unpublished method statement.

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

http://www.archaeologists.net/sites/default/files/node-files/ifa_standards_watching.pdf last accessed 14.03.11

Acknowledgements

ASE would like to thank 4Delivery Ltd for commissioning the work and John mills of WSCC for his advice and guidance throughout the project.

HER Summary Sheet

Site Code	DPW12					
Identification Name and Address	Dial Post Water Treatment Works, Bentons Lane, Dial Post. West Sussex.					
County, District &/or Borough	West Sussex, Horsham.					
OS Grid Refs.	515044 19492					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Arch. South-East Project Number				5341		
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. 22.02.12	Other		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery Ltd					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of a temporary compound at Dial Post Water Treatment Works site, Bentons Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex.</p> <p>No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work. A sequence of Weald Clay, overlain by a thin and discontinuous subsoil horizon, in turn overlain by the topsoil horizon of the site was recorded across the site. However, as monitored groundworks were limited to topsoil stripping only, the surviving subsoil horizon was left intact, making the task of identifying archaeological features cut into the underlying natural geology difficult. The lack of finds within the topsoil horizon suggests that significant archaeological remains may not be present in the monitored area.</p>						

OASIS Summary Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-120069

Project details

Project name An Archaeological Watching Brief at Dial Post Water Treatment Works, Bentons Lane, Dial Post. West Sussex.

Short description of the project Archaeology South-East was commissioned by 4 Delivery Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during topsoil stripping in advance of the construction of a temporary compound at Dial Post Water Treatment Works site, Bentons Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex. No archaeological finds or features were observed during the course of the work. A sequence of Weald Clay, overlain by a thin and discontinuous subsoil horizon, in turn overlain by the topsoil horizon of the site was recorded across the site. However, as monitored groundworks were limited to topsoil stripping only, the surviving subsoil horizon was left intact, making the task of identifying archaeological features cut into the underlying natural geology difficult. The lack of finds within the topsoil horizon suggests that significant archaeological remains may not be present in the monitored area.

Project dates Start: 22-02-2012 End: 22-02-2012

Previous/future work No / No

Any associated project reference codes DPW12 - Sitecode

Any associated project reference codes 5341 - Contracting Unit No.

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Cultivated Land 4 - Character Undetermined

Monument type N/A None

Significant Finds N/A None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice

Project location

Country England

Site location WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM WEST GRINSTEAD Dial Post WTW

Postcode RH13 8NW

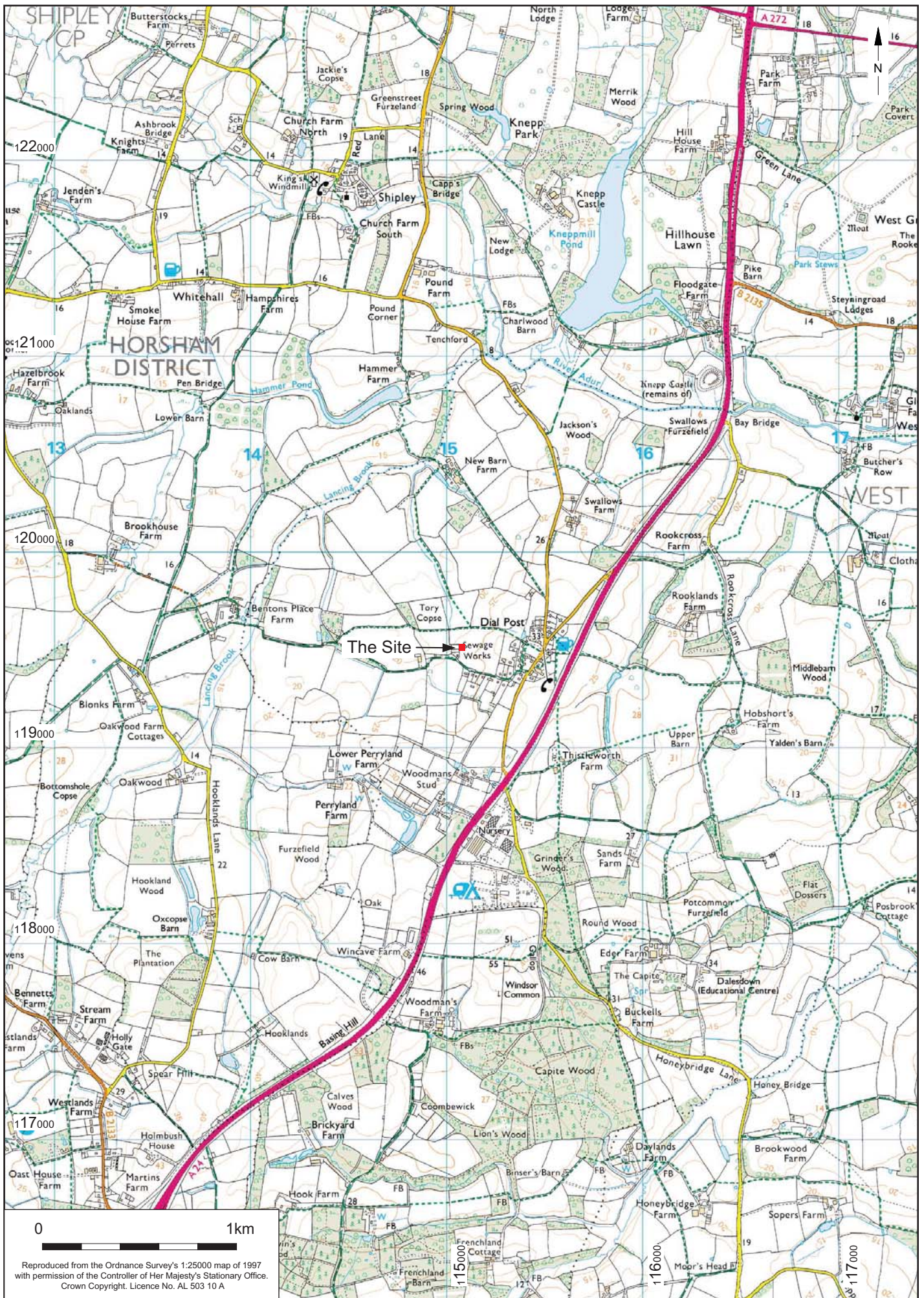
Study area 588.00 Square metres

Site coordinates TQ 150 949 51.6406533765 -0.337909429991 51 38 26 N 000 20 16 W
Point

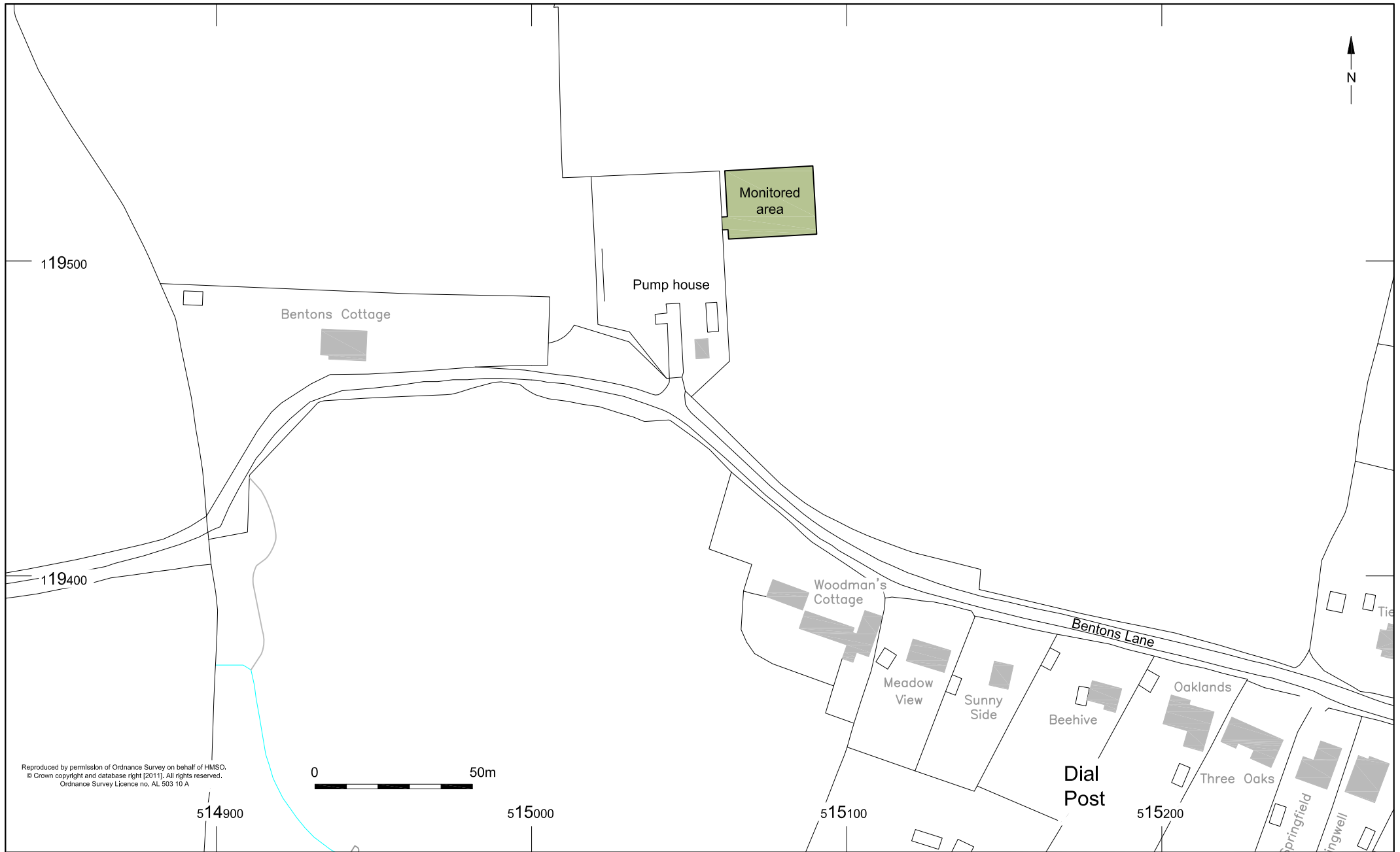
Project creators

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	Diccon Hart
Type of sponsor/funding body	4D Ltd
Name of sponsor/funding body	4Delivery Ltd
Project archives	
Physical Archive Exists?	No
Digital Archive Exists?	No
Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Contents	'Stratigraphic'
Paper Media available	'Context sheet','Correspondence','Photograph','Unpublished Text'
Project bibliography	
1	
Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	An archaeological watching brief at Dial Post WTW, Bentons Lane, Dial Post, West Sussex.
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Hart, D
Other bibliographic details	2012057
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© Archaeology South-East		Dial Post WTW	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5341	March 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012057	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Dial Post Water treatment works	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 5341	March 2012	Site plan showing monitored area	
Report Ref: 2012057	Drawn by: FEG		



Monitored area looking west



Monitored area looking east



Laying terram over stripped area

© Archaeology South-East		Dial Post WTW	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 5341	March 2012	Selected photos	
Report Ref: 2012057	Drawn by: JLR		

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