

**Archaeological Watching Brief at
The Rising Sun Inn,
The Street, Stourmouth, Kent**

NGR 626460 162440

Dover District Council Planning Application No: DOV/07/00985

**ASE Project No: 5688
Site Code: RSS12**

**ASE Report No: 2012206
OASIS ID: archaeol6-134704**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA

**With contributions by
Luke Barber**

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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the owners, Chris and Carole Leaper to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the erection of rear extensions to The Rising Sun Inn, The Street, Stourmouth, Kent

Ground reduction within the footprint of the new extensions revealed a 17th- to mid-18th century well and a mid- 18th to 19th century pit. No obvious truncation to the overburden was recorded. The pit was excavated; the well remains almost entirely in situ. The remains are consistent with those commonly found within the backyard of a 17th / 18th century property.

CONTENTS

- 1.0 Introduction**
- 2.0 Archaeological Background**
- 3.0 Archaeological 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 KCC HER records
- Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive
- Table 3: Recorded Contexts

FIGURES

- Figure 1: Site location
- Figure 2: Site plan
- Figure 3: Detail of reduced area

1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of the Centre for Applied Archaeology (CAA), Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by the owners, Chris and Carole Leaper to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the erection of rear extensions to The Rising Sun Inn, The Street, Stourmouth, Kent (NGR 626460 162440; Figure 1)

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site comprises a small rectangular plot of land to the rear of The Rising Sun, which is situated on the north side of The Street. The twin settlements of East and West Stourmouth are located in sparsely developed area of the county of Kent to the south of the course of the River Stour.

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock consists of the Harwich Formation of sand and gravel. The surrounding area is underlain by the Wadhurst Clay Formation. The superficial geology consists of Head deposits of clay and silt. (BGS 2012).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission for the erection of a single story and a two storey extension to the rear of the property was granted by Dover District Council. (Application No.DOV/07/00985). Following consultation between Dover District Council and the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (Dover District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a condition (no. 5) was attached, which required that::

'The developer shall afford access at all reasonable times to any archaeologist nominated by the Local Planning Authority and shall allow him/her to observe the excavations and record items of interest and finds.

Reason; To ensure that features of archaeological interest are properly examined and recorded'

1.3.2 A generic Specification for the work was duly produced by the Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council (HCGKCC 2011). This document outlined the methodologies to be used during monitoring at the site, and in subsequent reporting of the results.

1.4 Research Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims stated in the Specification (*ibid.*) were to:

'contribute to heritage knowledge of the area through the recording of the archaeological remains exposed as a result of excavations in connection with the groundworks.'

1.5 Scope of Report

- 1.5.1 The current report provides results of the archaeological monitoring of the groundworks for the new extension carried out at the site on the 17th and 18th September 2012. The on-site work was undertaken by Sam Whitehead (Archaeological Assistant). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Jim Stevenson (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 The following archaeological sites and findspots held on Kent County Council's (KCC) Historic Environment Record (HER) are located within a 1km radius of the site as shown in Fig. 2.

KCC HER No.	OS Co-ordinates	Description
TR 26 SE 12	2742 6230	Mound of unknown date. Part of larger group on Ash Levels.
TR 26 SE 22	2560 6290	Anglo-Saxon sceatta (coin) found near Stourmouth Church.
TR 26 SE 23	2640 6250	Hoard of 49 Bronze Age implements found in the rear garden of The Rising Sun in 1963
TR 26 SE 33	2558 6273	Stourmouth Brewery. In operation before 1845, mostly demolished by 1938.
TR 26 SE 49	2630 6229	Ivy House. Grade II listed building dating from the C17th
TR 26 SE 50	2565 6228	Barn at Newhouse Farm. Grade II listed building dating from C17th.
TR 26 SE 54	2614 6220	Granary. Grade II listed building dating from the C17th.
TR 26 SE 55	2561 6285	Schoolhouse. Grade II listed building dating from the mid C19th.
TR 26 SE 56	2629 6225	Drum Cottage. Grade II listed building dating from the late C17th.
TR 26 SE 60	2641 6241	Stonehall Farm. Grade II listed building dating from the C15th.
TR 26 SE 61	26591 62615	Stourmouth House. Grade II* listed building dating from the C16th
TR 26 SE 62	2550 6240	Dean Farmhouse. Grade II listed building dating from early C18th.
TR 26 SE 63	2563 6221	Outbuilding at Newhouse Farm. Grade II listed building dating from C17th.
TR 26 SE 66	25616 62880	Parish Church of All Saints. Redundant since 1979. Anglo-Saxon fabric with later alterations.
TR 26 SE 99	2659 6260	Flight of stone steps leading to Stourmouth House dating from early C18th
TR 26 SE 104	2567 6221	Newhouse Farm. Grade II listed building dating from the C17th. Much altered.
TR 26 SE 106	2661 6262	Coachhouse. Grade II listed building dating from early C18th
TR 26 SE 108	2645 6235	Magpie Thatch. Grade II listed building dating from the C17th.
TR 26 SE 114	2615 6223	Site of barn dating from the C17th, formerly a listed building.
TR 26 SE 122	2552 6238	Barn at Dean Farmhouse. Grade II listed., dating from the C18th.
TR 26 SE 124	25585 62909	Northcourt Farmhouse. Grade II listed building dating from early C18th.
TR 26 SE 138	2738 6221	Mound of unknown date. Part of larger group on Ash levels.
MKE 65328	25620 62090	Findspot of medieval copper alloy pin. Found by metal detectorist.
MKE 65329	25690 62100	Findspot of medieval copper alloy seal matrix. Found by metal detectorist.
MKE 65620	25600 62300	Findspot of medieval or post-medieval lead alloy stylus. Found by metal detectorist.

Table 1: Summary of KCC HER records

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

(Figure 2)

- 3.1 The mechanical and manual excavations for the new extensions were monitored. An area c. 12m x 6m was reduced under constant archaeological supervision. All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for the occurrence of 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.
- 3.3 A photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade. Unfortunately at the present time none of the local museums are willing to accept the archive for deposition. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	4
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	digital images
Bulk finds	1 box

Table 2: Quantification of Site Archive

4.0 RESULTS

(Figure 3)

Context Number	Type	Description
100	Cut	Post-medieval pit
101	Fill	Post-medieval pit
102	Layer	Overburden
103	Masonry	Well

Table 3: Recorded Contexts

- 4.1 The lowest deposit recorded was a layer of dark brown, silty-clay [102]. This was overlain by topsoil which contained modern rubbish such as plastic and can ring-pulls.
- 4.2 Sealed beneath [102] was a small rounded pit [100] c. 0.60m in diameter. This was 0.30m deep and contained [101] a dark greyish-brown silty clay fill. The pit is most likely mid- 18th to 19th century in date and contained pottery, clay tobacco pipe and CBM.
- 4.3 Apparently cut through [102] was a brick-lined well [103] constructed of unmortared unfrogged red brick. The well is of probable 17th- to mid-18th-century date. The well was not excavated to any depth and was preserved *in situ*.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 The Pottery by Luke Barber

5.1.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered just two tiny scraps of pottery, both coming from context [101]. The first consists of a 1g sherd of creamware, the other a 1g sherd of transfer-printed pearlware. Together they suggest activity between the later 18th and early 19th centuries.

5.2 The Clay Tobacco Pipes by Luke Barber

5.2.1 Context [101] produced two slightly abraded stem fragments and a decorated bowl fragment with minimal abrasion. The stems cannot be dated any closer than the mid-18th to 19th century but the bowl is more likely to be of later 18th- to early/mid-19th- century date. Decoration consists of a ribbed body with leaf moulding up the seams and the heel has a somewhat unclear maker's initials of M (or H)/ T (or I). The only initials that may correlate are those of Henry Jeffrey of Maidstone (1723-61) though the form suggests a later date and thus other maker.

5.3 Ceramic Building Material by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Four amorphous brick fragments were recovered from context [101]. These are tempered with moderate to abundant fine/medium sand and are only low/medium fired. No original surfaces survive but the fabric and firing would be in keeping with a 17th- to mid-18th- century date.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 6.1 Ground reduction within the footprint of the new extension revealed a 17th- to mid-18th century well and a mid- 18th to 19th century pit.
- 6.2 No obvious truncation to the overburden was recorded.
- 6.3 The pit was excavated; the well remains almost entirely *in situ*.
- 6.4 The remains are consistent with those commonly found within the backyard of a 17th / 18th century property.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

BGS 2012. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 02.10.2012 http://maps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyviewer_google/googleviewer.html

HCGKCC 2011. *Specification for an Archaeological Watching Brief*. Unpub. document

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank Mr and Mrs Leaper for commissioning the work. Thanks are also due to the staff of The Heritage Conservation Group, Kent County Council for their input at various stages of the project. The co-operation and hospitality of the on-site contractors is also gratefully acknowledged.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	RSS12					
Identification Name and Address	The Rising Sun Inn, The Street, Stourmouth					
County, District &/or Borough	Dover District, Kent					
OS Grid Refs.	626460 162440					
Geology	Harwich Formation - sand and gravel					
Arch. South-East Project Number	5688					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other <i>Extension</i>		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 17.10.2012 – 18.10.2012	Other		
Sponsor/Client	Mr and Mrs Leaper (owners of The Rising Sun Inn)					
Project Manager	Any Leonard/Jim Stevenson					
Project Supervisor	Sam Whitehead/Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM ✓	Other		
<p><i>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by the owners, Chris and Carole Leaper to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for the erection of rear extensions to The Rising Sun Inn, The Street, Stourmouth, Kent</i></p> <p><i>Ground reduction within the footprint of the new extensions revealed a 17th- to mid-18th century well and a mid- 18th to 19th century pit. No obvious truncation to the overburden was recorded. The pit was excavated; the well remains almost entirely in situ. The remains are consistent with those commonly found within the backyard of a 17th / 18th century property.</i></p>						

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-134704

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at The Rising Sun, Stourmouth, Kent
Project dates	Start: 17-09-2012 End: 18-09-2012
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	5688 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RSS12 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DOV/07/00985 - Planning Application No.
Monument type	NONE None

Project location

Country	England
Site location	KENT DOVER STOURMOUTH The Rising Sun, The Street
Postcode	CT3 1HY
Site coordinates	TR 26460 62440 51 1 51 18 55 N 001 15 00 E Point

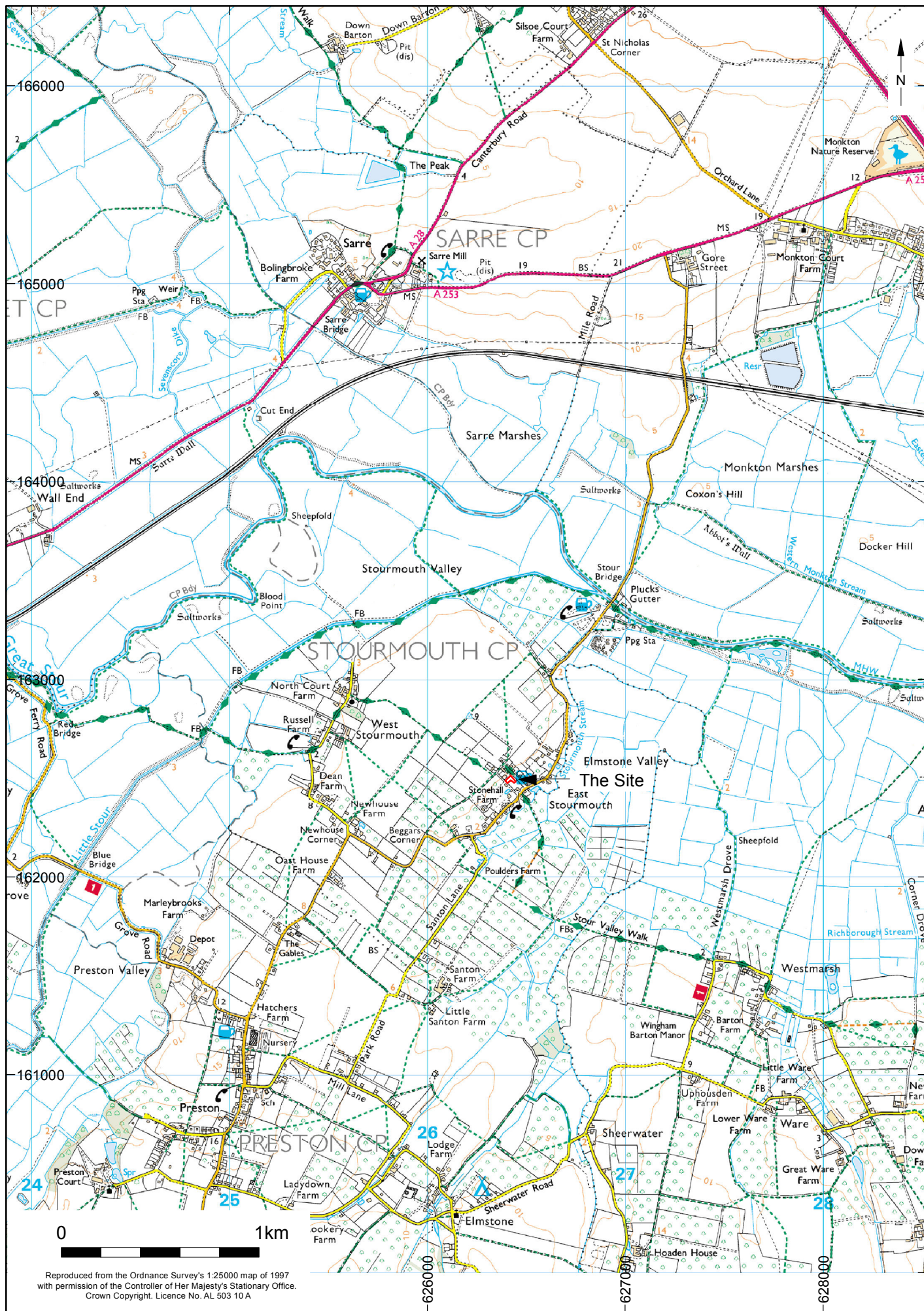
Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Kent County Council
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Jim Stevenson
Project supervisor	Sam Whitehead
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	The Rising Sun

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
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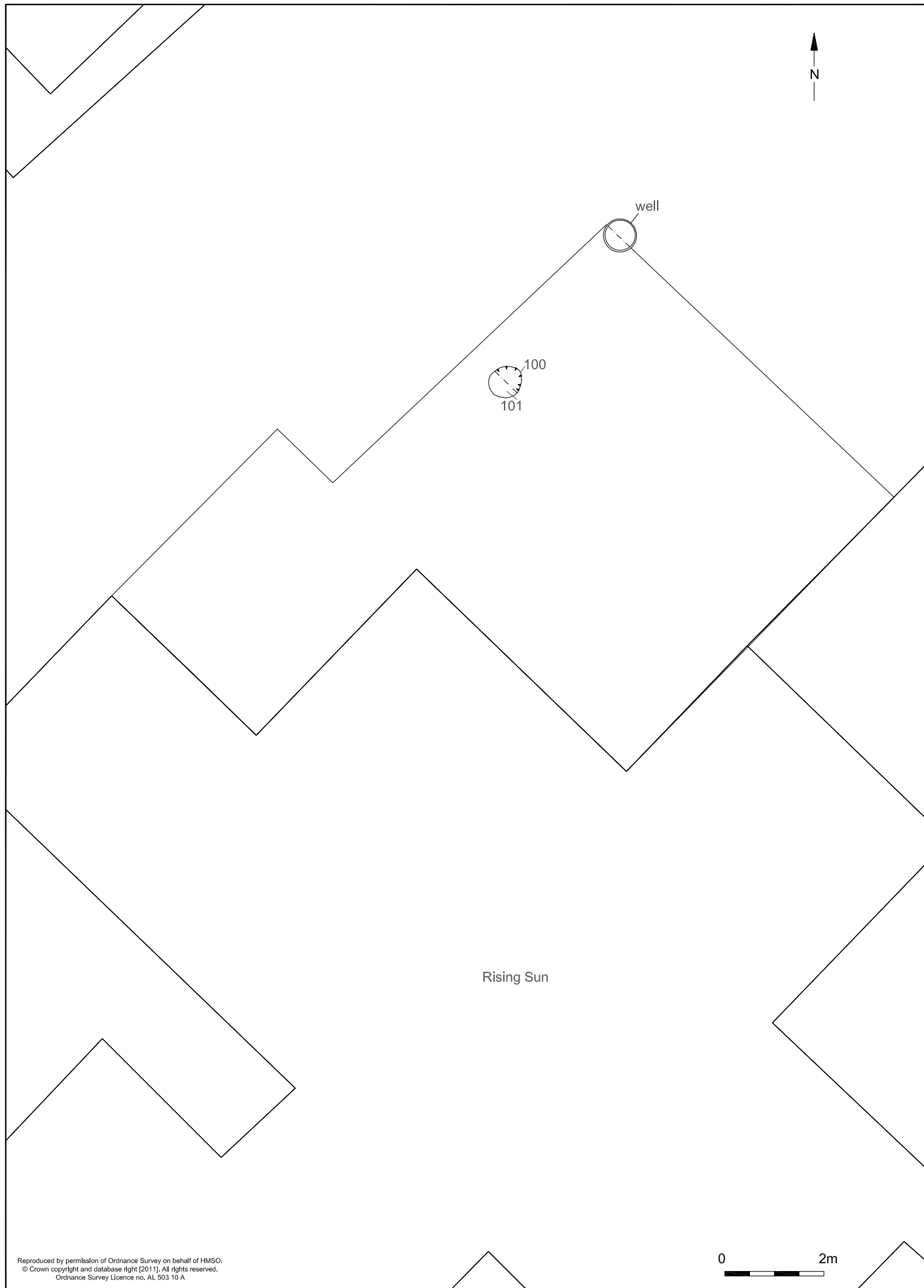
Title	Archaeological Watching Brief Report The Rising Sun, the Street, Stourmouth, Kent
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2012206
Date	2012
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos
<hr/>	
Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	2 October 2012



© Archaeology South-East		Rising Sun Pub, Stourmouth	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 5688	Oct. 2012	Site location	
Report Ref: 2012206	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Rising Sun Pub, Stourmouth		Fig. 2
Project Ref:5688	Oct. 2012	Site plan		
Report Ref: 2012206	Drawn by: AR			



© Archaeology South-East		Rising Sun Pub, Stourmouth	Fig.3
Project Ref: 5688	Oct.2012	Detail of reduced area	
Report Ref: 2012206	Drawn by: AR		

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