

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Land West of Rascal's Close
Southwater, West Sussex**

NGR 515631 125180

Horsham District Council Planning Reference: DC/10/1834

**ASE Project No: 6265
Site Code: RAS 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013217
OASIS ID: archaeol6-158807**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA



**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Land West of Rascal's Close
Southwater, West Sussex**

NGR 515631 125180

Horsham District Council Planning Reference: DC/10/1834

**ASE Project No: 6265
Site Code: RAS 13**

**ASE Report No: 2013217
OASIS ID: archaeo16-158807**

By Simon Stevens BA MIFA

September 2013

**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 was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of 29 dwellings, with associated new roads, footpaths and vehicle hard-standing on land to the west of Rascal's Close, Southwater, West Sussex.

No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the two visits to the site suggesting that no archaeological remains were disturbed during the groundworks.

CONTENTS

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

Bibliography
Acknowledgements

HER Summary Sheet
OASIS Form

TABLES

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

FIGURES

Figure 1: Site location
Figure 2: Site plan
Figure 3: Development plan

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 CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of 29 dwellings, with associated new roads, footpaths and vehicle hard-standing on land to the west of Rascal's Close, Southwater, West Sussex (NGR 515631 125180; Figure 1).

1.2 Topography and Geology

1.2.1 The site lies to the west of the current extent of Rascal's Close, to the east of the alignment of Shipley Road, at the southern extent of the settlement of Southwater, at a height of c.50mAOD. It is bounded to the south, west and north by mature hedges with numerous trees and to the east by the fences of properties fronting onto Rascal's Close (Figures 2 and 3).

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying bedrock is the Wadhurst Clay Formation. There is no recorded superficial geology (BGS 2013).

1.3 Planning Background

1.0 Planning consent for the development was granted by Horsham District Council (planning reference DC/10/1834). Following consultations between Horsham District Council and West Sussex County Council (Horsham District Council's advisers on archaeological issues), a condition (no.15) was attached to the permission stating that:

'the developer shall arrange for an archaeological organisation or appropriately qualified archaeologists to observe the excavations and record archaeological evidence that may be uncovered as a result of the development in accordance with a written scheme of investigation which shall be submitted to and approved by the Local Planning Authority prior to the commencement of development.'

Reason: The site is potentially of archaeological interest and therefore the safeguards indicated in policy DC10 of the Horsham District Development Framework: General Control Policies (2007).'

1.3.1 In accordance with this condition, ASE prepared a *Written Scheme of Investigation* which was approved West Sussex County Council before the commencement of work at the site (ASE 2013a). This document outlined the techniques to be used in the field, in this case a watching brief on all intrusive groundworks, and in the production of a report and an archive.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The aims stated in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid.)* were to:

'monitor all excavations associated with the development in order to ensure that any features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards.

The watching brief will seek to determine:

- *Whether any Mesolithic/early Neolithic activity is present within the development area*
- *Whether the Late Iron Age/Roman settlement identified to the north and east continues to any extent in the current development area*
- *Whether any medieval agricultural activity or evidence related to nearby contemporary farmsteads can be detected in the current development area.'*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 The current report provides the results of the archaeological monitoring of the site carried out during two site visits undertaken in July and August 2013. The on-site monitoring was undertaken by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist) and by Michael Shapland (Archaeologist). The project was managed by Andy Leonard (Project Manager) and by Dan Swift (Post-Excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Introduction

2.1.1 The following information is drawn largely from the desk-based assessment (DBA) and subsequent post-excavation assessment (PXA) for a programme of archaeological work on land to the east of Millfield, Southwater (ASE 2010; ASE 2013b). The south-western extent of that site was located c. 200m to the east of the current development area at Rascal's Close.

2.2 Prehistoric and Roman

2.2.1 In general this part of the Weald has produced relatively little evidence of prehistoric and Roman activity. The area was largely covered in dense forest and soils were less suited to agriculture than on the surrounding chalk and Greensand geology. Late prehistoric and Roman ironworking appears to have been concentrated some way to the east (Cleere and Crossley 1985).

2.2.2 Although the Weald may have been an unsuitable territory for hunting during the Mesolithic, it is considered to have been a favourable environment for foraging (SERF 2007). Mesolithic and Neolithic flints have been recovered during field-walking in area (HER 3570). Several shallow pits excavated at Millfield contained Mesolithic/early Neolithic flint or early Neolithic pottery (ASE 2013b)

2.2.3 Recent fieldwork is beginning to suggest that the local area was more heavily settled in the later Iron Age and Roman periods than previously assumed. At Millfield, Late Iron Age/early Roman enclosures were recorded together with a large number of contemporary pits and a probable roundhouse. Mid/late Roman remains were also recovered on the site but these were generally associated with less well-defined features, producing fewer finds (*ibid.*).

2.2.4 A programme of scientific dating is currently underway to determine whether a series of pit/hearths from the site can be assigned to this period. Excavations recently completed on a large housing development at Broadbridge Heath, c.6km to the north of the current site, have revealed an extensive archaeological landscape and roundhouses and enclosures have been recorded. Large quantities of pottery from the site include material of Middle Iron Age to late Roman date (ASE *in prep.*).

2.3 Anglo-Saxon and Medieval

2.3.1 It is thought that local Wealden land was largely controlled by parent manors situated on more fertile soils during the Anglo-Saxon period. In the medieval period the site lay close to the boundary of the parishes of Horsham and Shipley. The landscape was characterised by irregular assarts with small patches of common demesne arable (land held in hand by the manorial lord). A series of small settlements and farmsteads began to emerge at this time, probably as a result of woodland clearance for swine pasture. The current site is not located within a known medieval settlement.

2.3.2 However the core of Southwater, located to the north of the site, probably emerged as a medieval ribbon development along the road to Steyning and

the coast. The hamlet of Nutham, located a few kilometres to the north-east, is also thought to be of 13th century origin. Excavations at Millfields recovered a reasonably large medieval pottery assemblage from a field boundary/trackway, perhaps suggesting that a small settlement or farmstead nearby (ASE 2013b..

2.4 Post-Medieval

2.4.1 The agricultural landscape seems to have altered very little during much of the post-medieval period. The irregular shape of the fields on historic maps suggests that many boundaries were preserved from the medieval phase of sporadic forest clearance. There was however, some modification of the field pattern during the 19th century when advances in technology intensified the scale of farming. The turnpiking of Southwater Street in 1794 caused Southwater to expand along the road from Horsham to Arundel.

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

- 3.1 During 2 visits to the site stripped surfaces of the 'natural' Weald Clay were observed and all available sections of excavations were examined. Available spoil was also scanned for the presence of artefacts.
- 3.2 All encountered deposits were recorded to accepted professional standards using standard Archaeology South-East context record forms. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart.
- 3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept forms part of the site archive which is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Portslade and has been offered to Horsham Museum. The archive will remain with ASE until the museum is ready to accept it. The archive consists of the following material:

Number of Contexts	2
No. of files/paper record	1
Photographs	24

Table 1: Quantification of site archive

4.0 RESULTS

- 4.1 During an initial visit to the site in July 2013, limited mechanical excavations for access roads and pipe trenches were observed. During the second visit in August 2013 all of the access roads were in place and much of the site had been stripped down to the surface of the 'natural'.
- 4.2 The observed stratigraphic sequence was straightforward and consisted of mid-brown silty clay topsoil, context [001], which directly overlay the 'natural' yellowish orange/orangey yellow Weald Clay, context [002]. No archaeological features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the available spoilheaps.

5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

- 5.1 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the two visits to the site suggesting that no archaeological remains were disturbed during the groundworks.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

ASE 2010. *An archaeological desk-based assessment of land at Mill Straight, Southwater, West Sussex*. Unpub. ASE Report no. 2010065

ASE 2013a. *Land West of Rascal's Close, Southwater, West Sussex Archaeological watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation*. Unpub. ASE document

ASE 2013b. *Archaeological excavations at Millfield, Southwater, Horsham, West Sussex: post excavation assessment and updated project design*. Unpub. ASE Report no. 2013008

ASE in prep. *Archaeological excavations at Broadbridge Heath, Horsham, West Sussex*, ASE document

BGS 2013. British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 10.09.2013 <http://www.bgs.ac.uk/discoveringGeology/geologyOfBritain/viewer.html>

Cleere H. and Crossley, D. 1985. *The Iron Industry of the Weald*. Leicester University Press

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank CgMs for commissioning the archaeological work. Gratitude is also due to the on-site staff (especially Shane Francis, the Site Manager) for their co-operation and hospitality.

HER Summary Form

Site Code	RAS 13					
Identification Name and Address	Land West of Rascal's Close, Southwater					
County, District &/or Borough	Horsham District, West Sussex					
OS Grid Refs.	515631 125180					
Geology	Weald Clay					
ASE Project Number	6265					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	Green Field ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other <i>Scheduled Monument</i>		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 19.07.2013 – 20.08.2013	Other		
Sponsor/Client	CgMs Consulting Ltd.					
Project Manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other <i>None</i>		
<p>Summary</p> <p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of 29 dwellings, with associated new roads, footpaths and vehicle hard-standing on land to the west of Rascal's Close, Southwater, West Sussex.</p> <p>No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the two visits to the site suggesting that no archaeological remains were disturbed during the groundworks.</p>						

OASIS Form**OASIS ID: archaeol6-158807****Project details**

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief on land to the west of Rascal's Close, Southwater, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by CgMs Consulting Ltd to undertake an archaeological watching brief during the construction of 29 dwellings, with associated new roads, footpaths and vehicle hard-standing on land to the west of Rascal's Close, Southwater, West Sussex. No archaeological features, deposits or finds were observed during the two visits to the site suggesting that no archaeological remains were disturbed during the groundworks.
Project dates	Start: 19-07-2013 End: 20-08-2013
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	6265 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	RAS 13 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	DC/10/1834 - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 13 - Waste ground
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	""Watching Brief""
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM SOUTHWATER Rascal's Close
Postcode	RH13 9GB
Study area	2.00 Hectares
Site coordinates	TQ 15631 25180 51 0 51 00 49 N 000 21 05 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	CgMs Consulting
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Andy Leonard/Dan Swift
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	CgMs Consulting

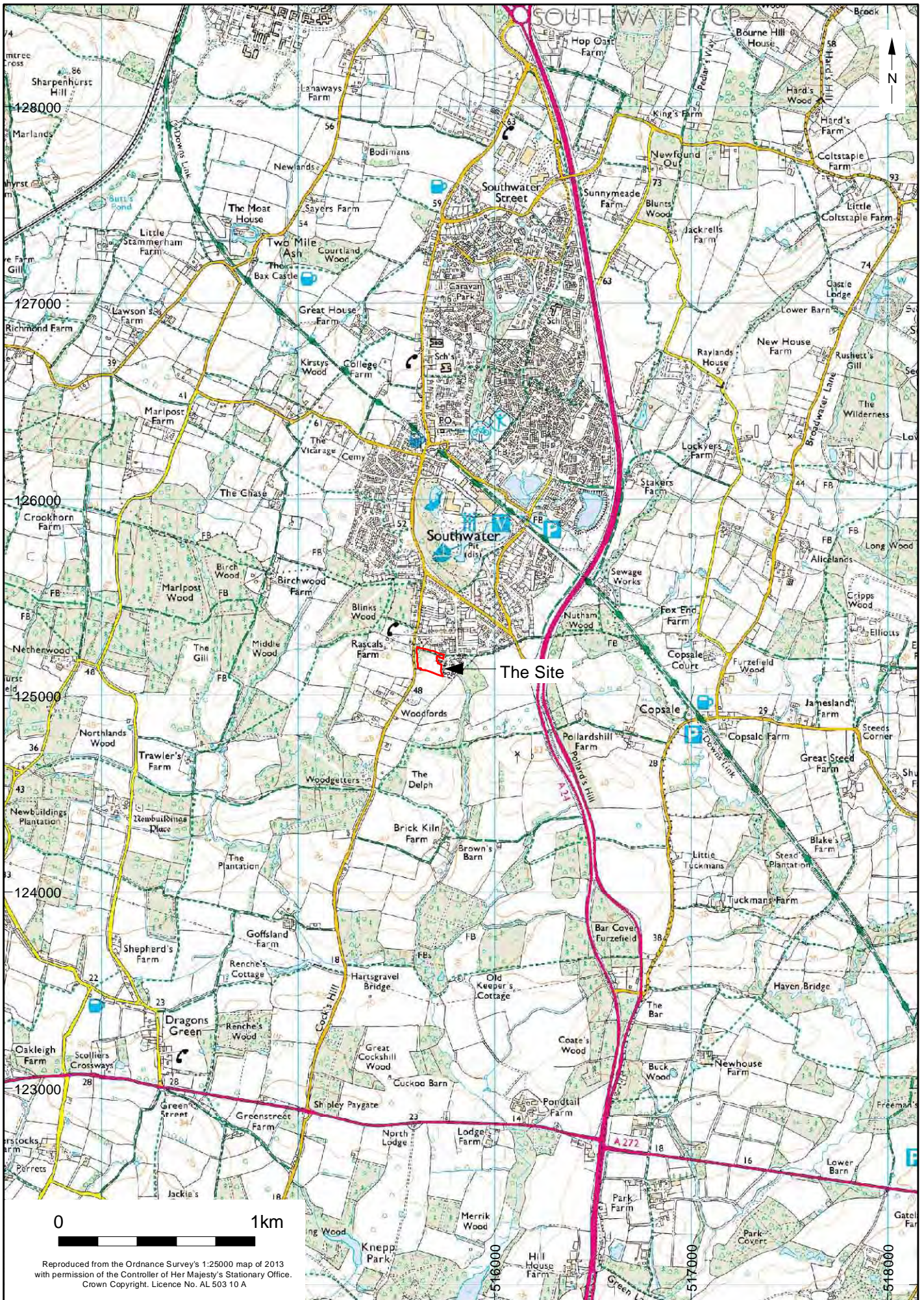
Project archives

Physical Archive Exists?	No
Physical Archive recipient	n/a
Physical Archive notes	Horsham Museum are not currently accepting archaeological archives
Digital Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography", "Text"
Digital Archive notes	Horsham Museum are not currently accepting archaeological archives
Paper Archive recipient	Horsham Museum
Paper Media available	"Context sheet", "Miscellaneous Material", "Report", "Unpublished Text"
Paper Archive notes	Horsham Museum are not currently accepting archaeological archives

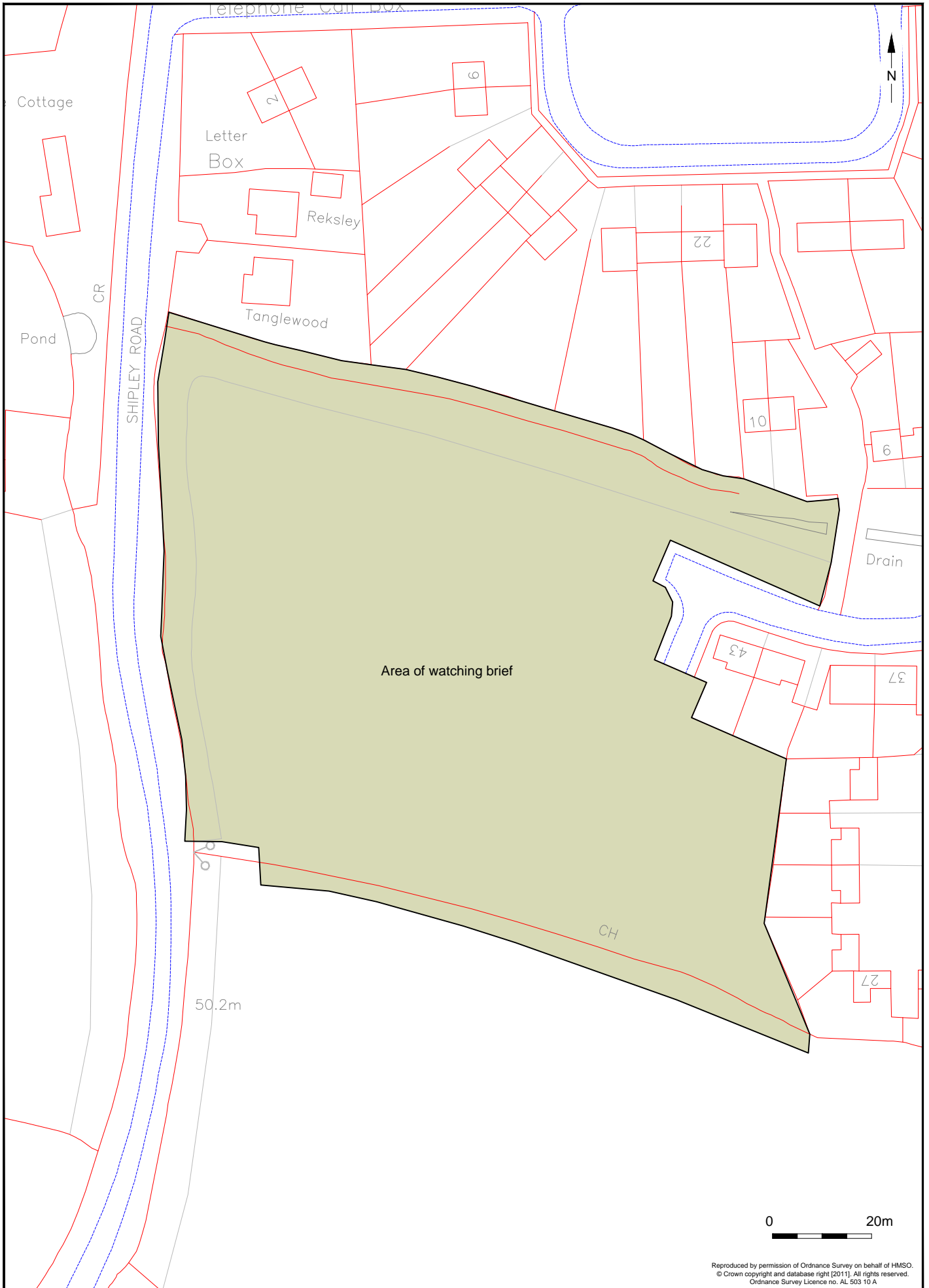
Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)
Title	Archaeological watching Brief Report - land West of Rascal's Close, Southwater, West Sussex
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2013217
Date	2013
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	ASE client report. A4-sized with cover logos
Entered by	Dan Swift (d.swift@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	13 September 2013



© Archaeology South-East		Land west of Rascal's Close		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 6265	September 2013	Site location		
Report Ref: 2013217	Drawn by: JLR			



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
 © Crown copyright and database right (2011). All rights reserved.
 Ordnance Survey Licence no. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Land west of Rascal's Close, Southwater	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 6265	September 2013	Site plan	
Report Ref: 2013217	Drawn by: JLR		



Reproduced by permission of Ordnance Survey on behalf of HMSO.
 © Crown copyright and database right [2011]. All rights reserved.
 Ordnance Survey Licence no. AL 503 10 A

© Archaeology South-East		Land west of Rascal's Close, Southwater	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 6265	July 2013	Proposed development	
Report Ref:	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