

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report
Nursery House, The Aboretum
Broadbridge Heath Road
Warnham, West Sussex**

NGR: 515703 133077

Planning Ref: DC/15/1851

ASE Project No: 7866

Site Code: BHN15

ASE Report No: 2016056

OASIS id: archaeol6-241657



By Gary Webster



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Horsham Museum**

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Date of Issue:	February 2016		
Revision:			

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Abstract

This report presents the results of an archaeological watching brief carried out by Archaeology South-East Nursery House, The Arboretum, Broadbridge Heath Road, Warnham, West Sussex in February 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by GWP Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs McGougan before an extension was added to Nursery House.

The area underwent significant terracing for the construction of Nursery House. A small section of a wall leading south from an existing east-west wall was identified. It is probably contemporary with the existing structure, and was not archaeologically significant.

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

1.1 Site Background

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), the contracting division of The Centre for Applied Archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology, University College London, were commissioned by GWP Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs McGougan to undertake an archaeological watching brief during extensions to Nursery House, The Arboretum, Broadbridge Heath Road, Warnham, West Sussex (Figures 1 & 2; centred on NGR 515703 133077), hereafter referred to as 'the site'.

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The solid geology of the site is Weald Clay - Mudstone as shown by the British Geological Survey (BGS 2015). There is no superficial geology recorded for this area.

1.2.2 The site is located to the south of the village of Warnham and comprises a residential property set in gardens of formal terraces and wooded pleasure grounds laid out from the 1830s, to the west of Bailing Hill and north of Warnham Park. Horsham lies to the southeast.

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission was granted by Horsham District Council for the extension of the existing building (Planning reference: DC/15/1851). A programme of archaeological works was required as a condition of consent.

1.3.2 A Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) was produced by Archaeology South-East. This outlined the methodology to be followed during the archaeological investigation and was submitted to Horsham District Council, and their Archaeological Advisor for approval prior to commencement of fieldwork.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The general objective of the archaeological work was to ensure that any deposits, features, artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological interest exposed and affected by the excavations were recorded, interpreted and reported on to appropriate standards.

1.4.2 Specifically, in line with Archaeological Advisor's advice, the watching brief aimed to record any remains relating to the park, the double-cube gardens or indeed remains relating to land use before the creation of the parkland.

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the findings of the archaeological Watching Brief that took place on the 02/02/16 and 03/02/16. The watching brief was carried out by Gary Webster (Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Paul Mason and the post-excavation work by Jim Stevenson.

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The following information is taken directly from the WSI (ASE 2015).
- 2.2 A consultation response issued by White Young Green, in their capacity as Archaeological Advisors to HDC summaries the significance of the site as follows:

The property is located within a complex that centres on the Grade II listed Tudor Gothic house of Warnham Court. The original house was built by Henry Tredcroft in 1828 and the architect is believed to have been PF Robinson. The building also has 19th century additions by Blomfield, AW (father) and Arthur (son), from 1866, with 1889 neo-Elizabethan lodges by Arthur Blomfield. The buildings, including Nursery House, are set within Warnham Park, which is included on the Historic England Register of historic parks and gardens and which is Grade II listed. Nursery House itself appears on the Ordnance Survey 6" second edition (1898) but is not present on the first edition (1874) and it is considered likely that Nursery House is, in origin, the former gardener's cottage, standing, as it does, in the north-west corner of the double-cube walled garden. It appears to have been built by Charles Lucas by 1897. The house is constructed in a polite version of the Wealden vernacular style, with faux timber-framed gables and tile hanging.

- 2.3 An archaeological watching brief undertaken at Warnham Court Farm, c. 400m north of the site, revealed only post-medieval features (AOC 2004).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

- 3.1.1 Ground works involved the excavation of approximately 18.0m of footings, excavated by mini-digger, as well as general site clearance (Figure 2). All disturbed areas were monitored by an experienced archaeologist.
- 3.1.2 All archaeological work took place in accordance with the WSI (ASE 2015). 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. A full photographic record of the work was kept.
- 3.1.3 An opportunity was made for 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 and environmental information.
- 3.1.4 The watching brief was stopped after the majority of the footings had been monitored, due to the lack of findings.

3.2 The Site Archive

- 3.2.1 ASE informed Horsham 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 Horsham museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Table 1).

Context sheets	6
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	64
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	2
Trench Record forms	0

Table 1: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	0
Registered finds (number of)	0
Flots and environmental remains from bulk samples	0
Palaeoenvironmental specialists sample samples (e.g. columns, prepared slides)	0
Waterlogged wood	0
Wet sieved environmental remains from bulk samples	0

Table 2: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Footing excavation and general site clearance

Context	Type	Interpretation	Max. Length m	Max. Width m	Deposit Thickness m
01	Layer	Made ground	c.7	c.4.5	0.05-0.35
02	Layer	Made ground	c.7	c.4.5	0.67
03	Layer	Natural	Site	Site	-
04	Masonry	Wall	-	0.22	0.44
05	Layer	Topsoil	-	-	0.4
06	Layer	Subsoil	-	-	0.32

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

- 4.1.1 In the centre and south of the site the natural geology [03] was overlain by made ground [02], which was in turn overlain by a demolition and levelling deposit [01].
- 4.1.2 The southern east to west foundation trench revealed a wall [04] in section (Figure 3). It was constructed of red brick and appeared to be a continuation of a recently demolished standing wall. It could not be traced as it continued beneath block paving, outside of the excavation area.
- 4.1.3 In the north of the site the stratigraphy was slightly different consisting of natural [03] beneath subsoil [06] and topsoil [05].
- 4.1.4 Several field drains and a service were identified during the excavations.

5.0 THE FINDS AND ENVIRONMENTAL SAMPLES

5.1 No finds or environmental samples were recovered from the site.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence

- 6.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence across the site consisted of natural geology (Weald Clay), overlain with made ground over the majority of the site. To the north of the site, where there had been no terracing, subsoil and topsoil were also identified.
- 6.1.2 The footings excavated were c.18.0m in length. One service, two field drains, and the remains of a wall were identified.

6.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts

- 6.2.1 The natural was seen at the base of excavations in all monitored areas. The building and site is terraced into a slope, which slopes downhill towards the south. Consequently, at the southern end of the site the subsoil and topsoil deposits had been replaced by made ground and levelling deposits.

6.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period

19th and 20th Century

- 6.3.1 The section of wall that headed to the south [04] was of similar construction to an upstanding east to west wall, part of which had been removed for the footings. Although the southward section does not appear on historic maps it is believed to be contemporary with the east-west wall, possibly part of its foundation, or possibly a later addition.

6.4 Consideration of Research Aims

- 6.4.1 This section addresses the broad aims:

To assess the character, extent, preservation, significance, date and quality of any archaeological remains and deposits

No significant archaeological remains were found.

To assess how any remains might be affected by development of the site

It is not anticipated that the development of the site will not impact on any archaeological remains in the monitored area.

To establish the extent to which previous groundworks and/or other processes have affected archaeological deposits at the site

Nineteenth century terracing and service drainage works have had some impact on the survival of deposits. However, an intact subsoil horizon was present in the very north of the site, outside of the previously terraced area.

6.4.2 This section addresses the research questions.

Record any remains relating to the park, the double-cube gardens or remains relating to land use before the creation of the parkland.

No evidence of the park, double-cube gardens or archaeology pre-dating the creation of the parkland was identified.

6.5 Conclusions

6.5.1 No remains of archaeological significance were found during the investigation. The size of the investigation area was limited and situated close to Nursery House, somewhat disturbed by terracing and services. Consequently, the results of this watching brief are not necessarily applicable to the wider area. However, no archaeological remains were uncovered in the north of the site, where undisturbed subsoil survived.

BIBLIOGRAPHY

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

ASE would like to thank GWP architects for commissioning the work and for their assistance throughout the project.

HER Summary

HER enquiry no.						
Site code	7866					
Project code	BHN15					
Planning reference	DC/15/1851					
Site address	Nursery House, The Arboretum, Broadbridge Heath Road, Warnham, West Sussex					
District/Borough	Horsham, Warnham					
NGR (12 figures)	515703 133077					
Geology	Weald Clay - Mudstone					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB [X]	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	2 nd and 3 rd Feb 2016					
Sponsor/client	GWP Architects					
Project manager	Paul Mason					
Project supervisor	Gary Webster					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval [X]	Other	
Project summary (100 word max)	<p><i>An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East Nursery House, The Arboretum, Broadbridge Heath Road, Warnham, West Sussex in February 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by GWP Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs McGougan before an extension was added to Nursery House.</i></p> <p><i>The area saw some significant terracing for the construction of Nursery House. A small section of a wall leading south from an existing east-west wall was identified. It is probably contemporary with the existing structure, and was not archaeologically significant.</i></p>					
Museum/Accession No.	-					

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-241657

Project details

Project name	An archaeological watching brief at Nursery House, The Arboretum, Warnham, West Sussex
Short description of the project	An archaeological watching brief was carried out by Archaeology South-East Nursery House, The Arboretum, Broadbridge Heath Road, Warnham, West Sussex in February 2016. The fieldwork was commissioned by GWP Architects on behalf of their clients Mr and Mrs McGougan before an extension was added to Nursery House. The area saw some significant terracing for the construction of Nursery House. A small section of a wall leading south from an existing east-west wall was identified. It is probably contemporary with the existing structure, and was not archaeologically significant.
Project dates	Start: 02-02-2016 End: 03-02-2016
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	BHN15 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Residential 1 - General Residential
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX HORSHAM WARNHAM Nursery House, Warnham
Postcode	RH12 3UX
Site coordinates	TQ 15747 33027 51.084328448749 -0.347263352801 51 05 03 N 000 20 50 W Point
Project creators	
Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	GWP architects
Project	Paul Mason

director/manager

Project supervisor Gary Webster

Project archives

Physical Archive
Exists? No

Digital Archive
recipient Horsham Museum

Paper Archive
recipient Horsham Museum



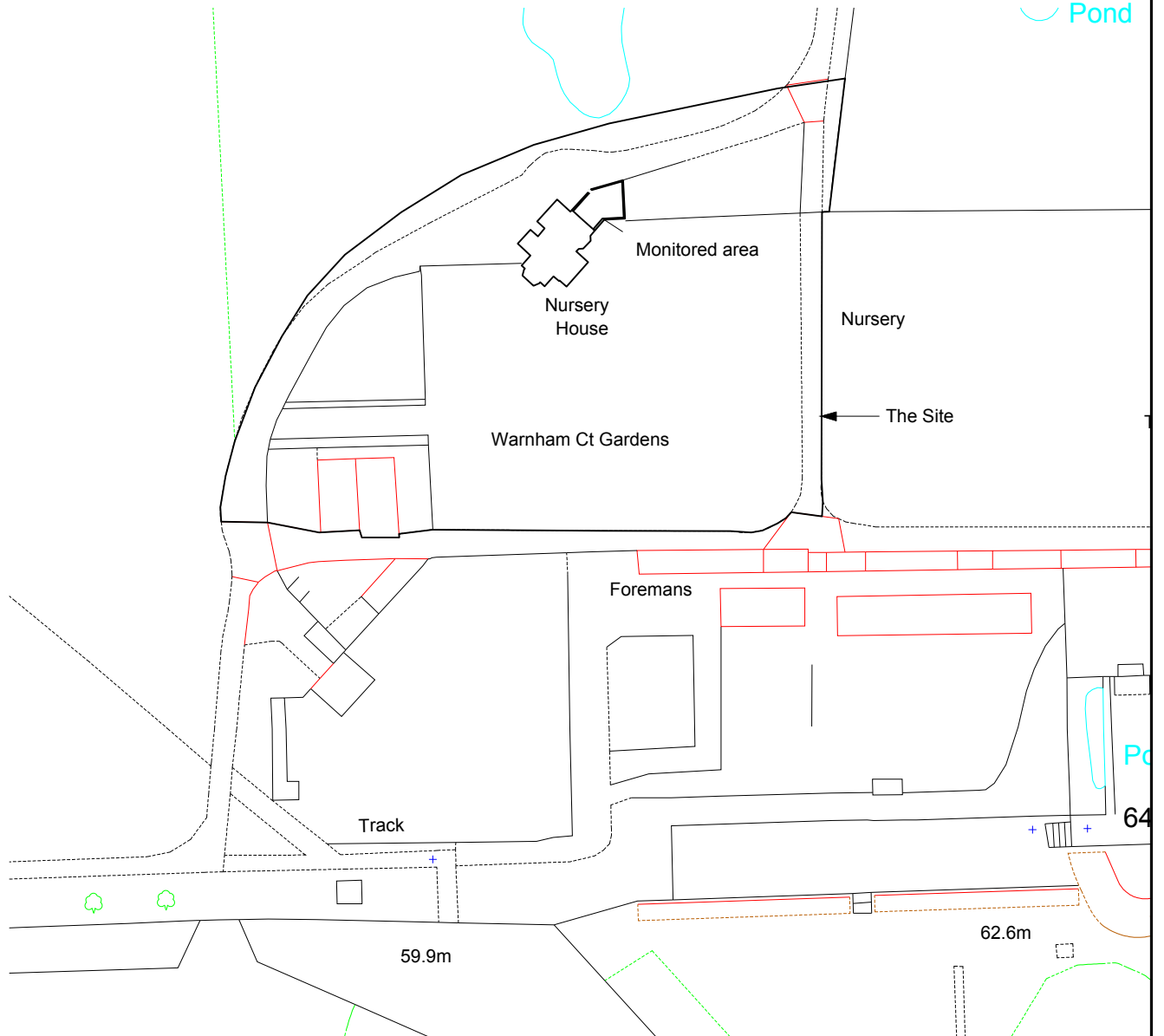
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© Archaeology South-East		Nursery House, Broadbridge Heath		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 7866	Feb 2016	Site location		
Report Ref: 2016056	Drawn by: JLR			

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Pond

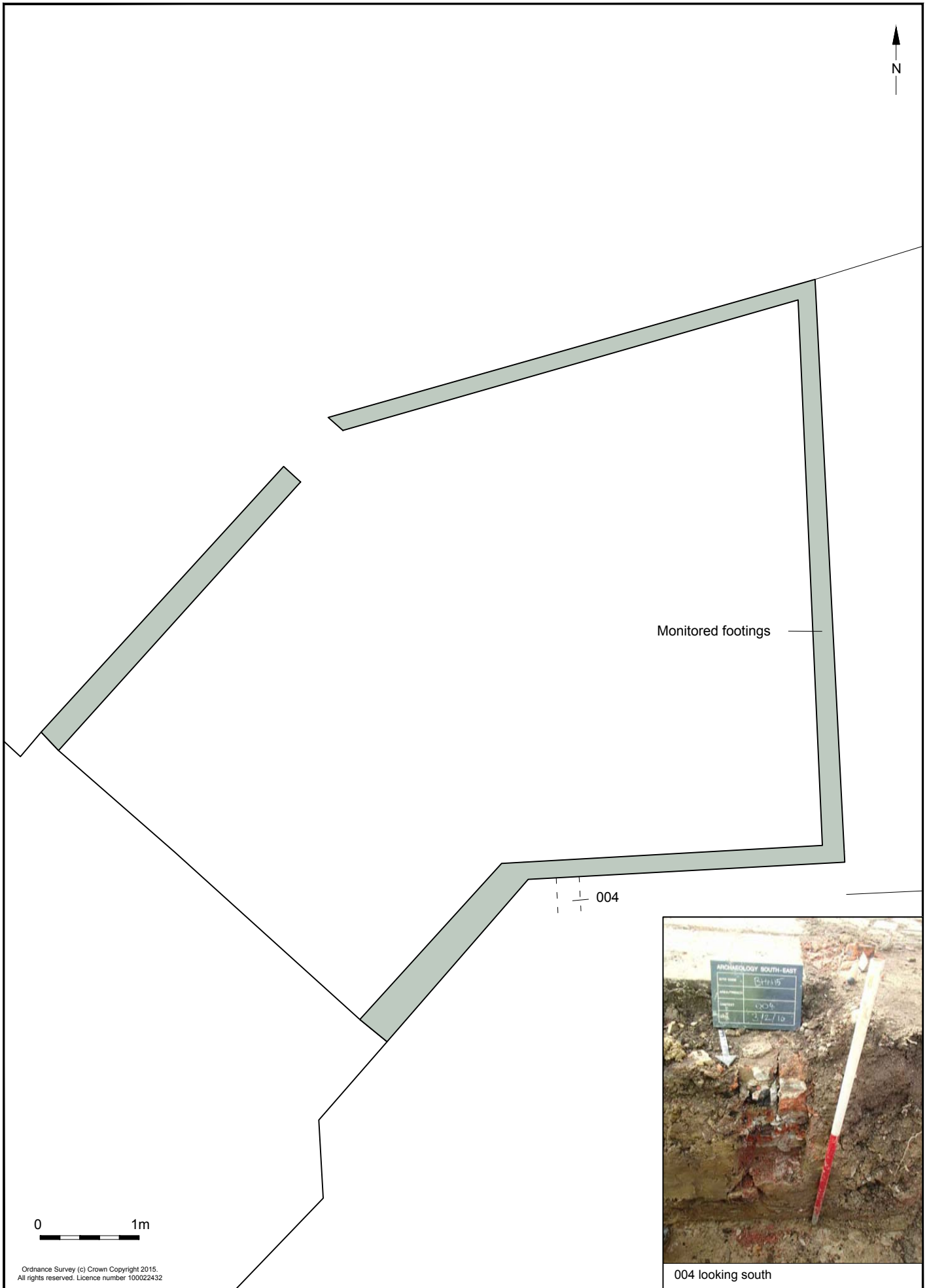


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© Archaeology South-East		Nursery House, Broadbridge Heath	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 7866	Feb 2016	Location of watching brief	
Report Ref: 2016056	Drawn by: JLR		



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© Archaeology South-East		Nursery House, Broadbridge Heath	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 7866	Feb 2016	Monitored area	
Report Ref: 2016056	Drawn by: JLR		

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