

**A Watching Brief at
Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works,
Hartfield, East Sussex**

Centred at NGR 54828 13611

Project No. 2240

**by
Simon Stevens BA MIFA**

April 2007

**Archaeology South-East
1 West Street
Ditchling
East Sussex
BN6 8TS**

**Tel: 01273 845497
Fax: 01273 844187
email: fau@ucl.ac.uk
website: www.archaeologyse.co.uk**

Summary

An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the upgrading and refurbishment of Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works, Hartfield, East Sussex. No archaeological deposits or features were observed and no significant artefacts were recovered from examined spoil.

Archaeology South-East

Archaeology South-East is a division of the University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology. The Institute of Archaeology at UCL is one of the largest groupings of academic archaeologists in the country. Consequently, Archaeology South-East has access to the conservation, computing and environmental backup of the college, as well as a range of other archaeological services.

The Field Archaeology Unit (now the Centre for Applied Archaeology) and South Eastern Archaeological Services (which became Archaeology South-East in 1996) were established in 1974 and 1991 respectively. Although field projects have been conducted worldwide, Archaeology South-East retains a special interest in south-east England with the majority of our contract and consultancy work concentrated in Sussex, Kent, Greater London and Essex.

Drawing on experience of the countryside and towns of the south east of England Archaeology South-East can give advice and carry out surveys at an early stage in the planning process. By working closely with developers and planning authorities it is possible to incorporate archaeological work into developments with little inconvenience.

Archaeology South-East, as part of the Field Archaeology Unit, is a registered organisation with the Institute of Field Archaeologists and, as such, is required to meet IFA standards.

CONTENTS

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

SMR Summary Sheet

OASIS Form

Fig. 1 Site Location Plan

Fig. 2 Site Plan

1.0 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1** Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by 4Delivery Limited to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works (centred NGR 54828 13611). (Fig. 1)
- 1.2** The site lies within an existing treatment plant to the north-east of the village of Hartfield, close to the course of the River Medway. It is situated to the northeast of the village's medieval motte and bailey castle (MNR No. TQ43 E7), partially within a designated archaeologically sensitive area (Fig 1). According to the British Geological Survey 1: 50 000 map of the area (Sheet, 303, *Tunbridge Wells*) the underlying geology at the site is Ashdown Beds, with Alluvium to the west.
- 1.3** Following consultation between 4Delivery Limited and East Sussex County Council, it was agreed that it would be prudent to maintain a watching brief at the site during groundworks, given the designation of the area. This is in line with 4Delivery's continuing commitment to maintaining archaeological watching briefs at a number of their projects.
- 1.4** A *Written Scheme of Investigation* for the work was prepared by Neil Griffin of ASE, compliant with the *Standard and Guidance for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording and Post Excavation (Development Control) in East Sussex v.3*. This document outlined the methods to be used during the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site.
- 1.5** The monitoring was carried out during visits to the site between December 2005 and March 2006 by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist). The project was managed by Neil Griffin (Projects Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1** The castle comprises a low motte and two baileys. A map and survey of 1597/8 refer to the area as 'Castle Fields',¹ and an excavation in 1912 confirmed a broadly medieval date.²
- 2.2** A number of watching briefs have been carried out during groundworks in the vicinity of the monument, one of which found

¹ E. Straker, The Buckhurst Terrier, 1597-1598, *Sussex Record Society* **39**, p.19-20, Map XIX (1934)

² L. Salzman, Exploration of the Castle Mound at Hartfield, *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **56**, 201-02 (1914)

evidence of a deep ditch around the motte.³ Little has been found during more recent work (e.g. in 1992).⁴

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 The archaeological watching brief was maintained during mechanical stripping of overburden associated with the construction of a works compound, and mechanical excavations for a new tank.

3.2 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were recorded to accepted professional standards. Deposit colours were recorded by visual inspection and not by reference to a Munsell Colour chart. All encountered deposits were levelled to the Ordnance Survey Datum.

3.3 A full photographic record of the work was kept and will form part of the site archive. The site archive is currently held by Archaeology South-East at the offices in Ditchling, and will be offered to a suitable local museum in due course.

4.0 RESULTS AND DISCUSSION (Fig. 2)

4.1 During the initial visit to the site in December 2005, the groundworks for the site compound were monitored. This work involved the mechanical removal of c.50mm of material in the south-western corner of the existing compound. The encountered overburden consisted of a mid-brown silty clay topsoil which contained a high concentration of brick rubble (Context **1**). Limited areas of the surface of the Ashdown Beds 'natural' yellow silty sand (Context **2**) were revealed, but no features were observed. No archaeological artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.2 Further visits were made in March 2006 to monitor mechanical excavations for a new balancing tank. The character of the encountered deposits was similar to that noted before, and the overburden had a maximum thickness of c.200mm. The excavation continued into the archaeologically sterile geological deposits. No features were observed and no artefacts were recovered from the overburden.

4.3 Following discussions with Greg Chuter, Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council, it was decided that all further excavations at

³ C. Tebbutt, Castle Field, Hartfield (TQ 481 361), *Sussex Archaeological Collections* **118**, p.377-8 (1980)

⁴ M. Gardiner, *A Watching Brief at Castle Fields, Hartfield, East Sussex*. Unpub. South Eastern Archaeological Services Report No. 1992/15

the site would be in previously disturbed areas, and that no further archaeological monitoring was necessary.

- 4.4** Although no archaeological deposits were disturbed during the monitored groundworks, the maintenance of a watching brief was prudent given the vicinity of the motte and bailey castle.

5.0 ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

- 5.1** The input of Greg Chuter, Archaeological Officer, East Sussex County Council is gratefully acknowledged, as is the co-operation of the on-site contractors.

Archaeology South-East
Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works.

SMR Summary Sheet

Site Code	HTW 05					
Identification Name and Address	Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works					
County, District &/or Borough	Wealden District, East Sussex					
Ordnance Survey Grid Reference	NGR 54828 13611					
Archaeology South-East Proj. No.	2240					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	Watching Brief ✓	Standing Structure	Field Walking	Other
Type of Site	Green Field	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other <i>Existing Treatment Works</i>		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	WB. 5.12.2005 – 8.03.2006	Field-Walking		
Sponsor/Client	4Delivery Limited					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other		
<p>100 Word Summary.</p> <p><i>An archaeological watching brief was maintained during groundworks associated with the upgrading and refurbishment of Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works, Hartfield, East Sussex. No archaeological deposits or features were observed and no significant artefacts were recovered from examined spoil.</i></p>						

OASIS ID: archaeo16-26324

[?](#) **Project details**

Project name	Watching Brief at Hartfield Waste Water Treatment Works
Short description of the project	A watching brief was maintained during alterations at the site. No features or finds were recorded.
Project dates	Start: 05-12-2005 End: 08-03-2006
Previous/future work	No / No
Any associated project reference codes	2240 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	HTW 05 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Current Land use	Transport and Utilities 3 - Utilities
Investigation type	'Watching Brief'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

Status **Complete**

[?](#) **Project location**

Site location	EAST SUSSEX WEALDEN HARTFIELD Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works
Postcode	TN7 4JF
Study area	100 Square metres
Site coordinates	NGR - TQ 4828 3611 LL - 51.1045332602 0.118235076388 (decimal) LL - 51 06 16 N 000 07 05 E (degrees) Point

Status **Complete**

[?](#) **Project creators**

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	Neil Griffin

Project supervisor Simon Stevens

Type of sponsor/funding body Developer

Name of sponsor/funding body 4Delivery Limited

Status **Complete**

? Project archives

Physical Archive Exists? 'No physical archive'

Digital Archive Exists? 'No digital archive'

Paper Archive recipient Local Museum

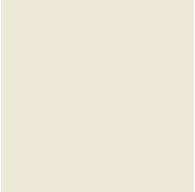
Paper Contents 'other'

Paper Media available 'Context sheet', 'Correspondence', 'Map', 'Notebook - Excavation, Research, General Notes', 'Report'

Status **Complete**

? Project bibliography 1

Publication type Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)_1



Title A Watching Brief at Hartfield Water Treatment Works

Author(s)/Editor(s) Stevens, S.

Other bibliographic details Project No. 2240

Date 2007

Issuer or publisher Archaeology South-East

Place of issue or publication Sussex

Description Standard ASE Client Report - A4 with cover logo.

Status **Complete**

39

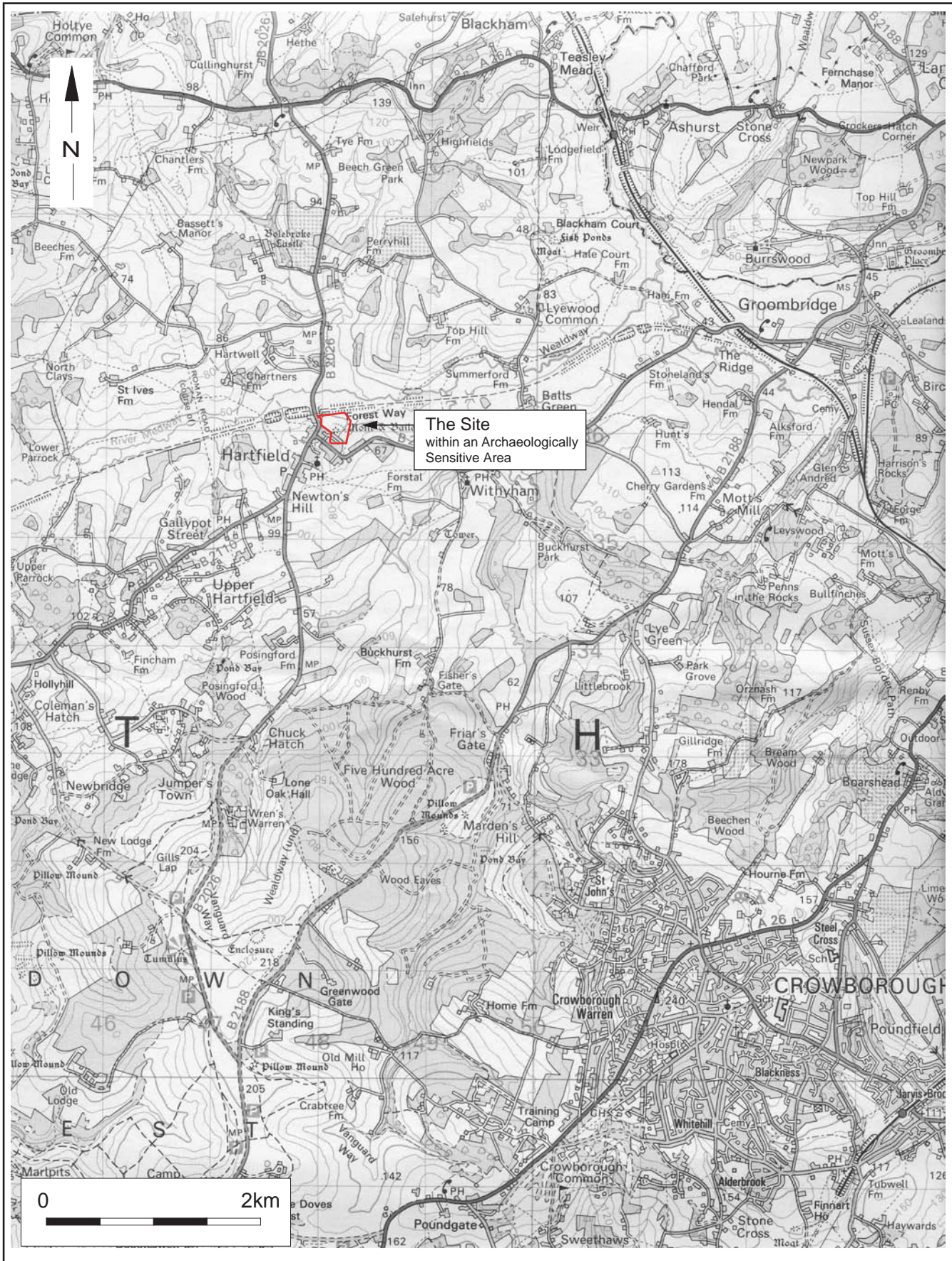
37

35

33

31

29



46

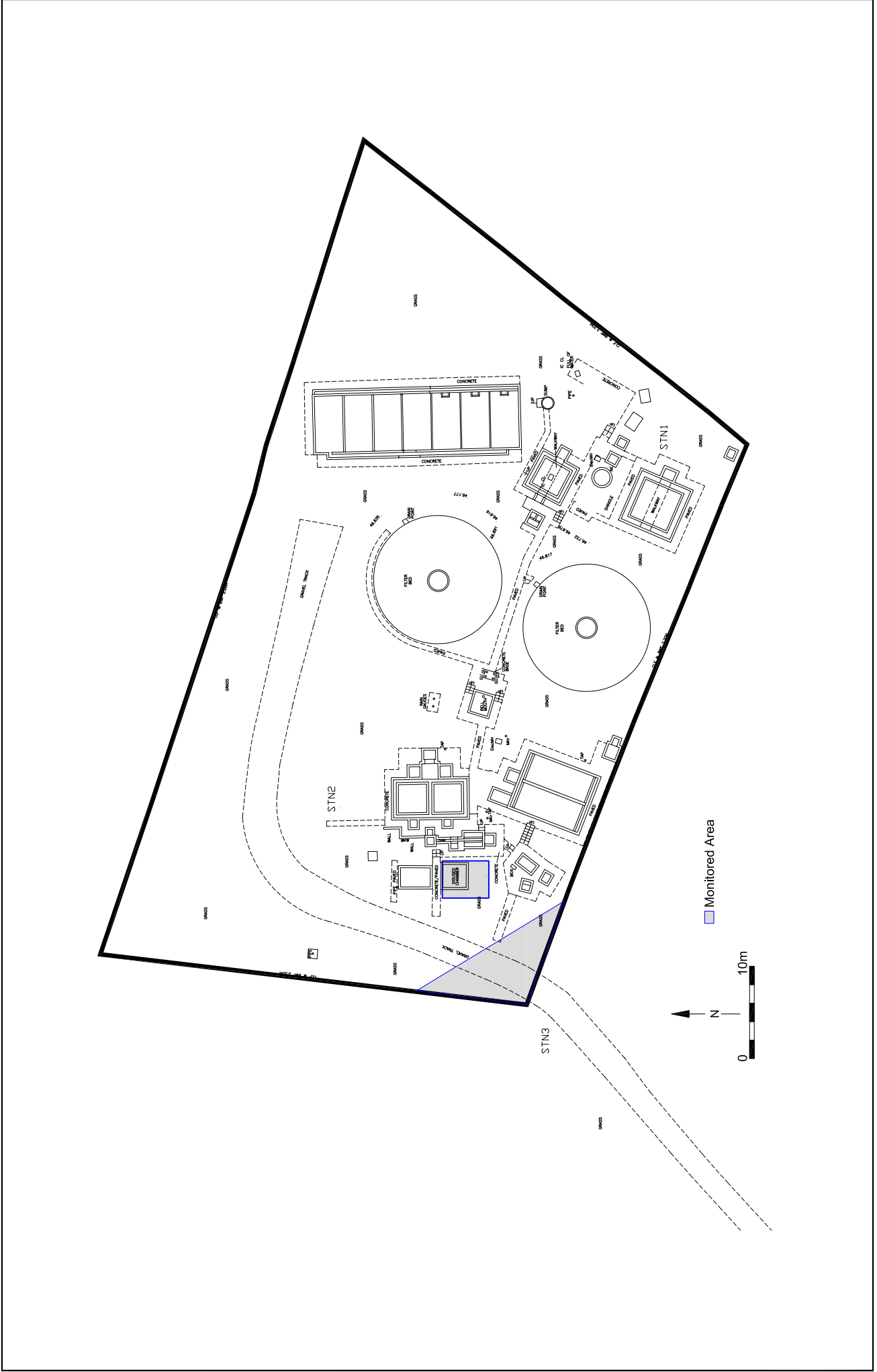
48

50

52

© Archaeology South-East			Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works, Hartfield, East Sussex		Fig. 1
Ref: 2240	April 2007	Drawn by: JNC	Site Location Plan		

Reproduced from the Ordnance Survey's 1:50 000 map of 1997 with permission of the Controller of Her Majesty's Stationary Office. Crown Copyright. Licence No. AL 503 10 A



© ARCHAEOLOGY SOUTH EAST	Hartfield Wastewater Treatment Works	Fig.2
Ref: 2240	April 2007	Site Plan
	Drawn by:	JNC