Archaeology South-East

ASE

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Mill Cottage, Hyde Drive, Ifield, West Sussex

NGR: 524517 136466

By Simon Stevens

February 2017

An Archaeological Watching Brief at Mill Cottage, Hyde Drive, Ifield, West Sussex

NGR: 524517 136466

Planning Ref: CR/2015/0824/FUL

ASE Project No: 160950
Site Code: IMC 16

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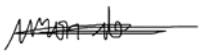
By Simon Stevens

Illustrations by Antonio Reis

Prepared by:	Simon Stevens	Senior Archaeologist	
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Abstract

Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an extension at Mill Cottage, Hyde Drive, Ifield, West Sussex. The property lies immediately adjacent to Ifield Mill, a grade II listed building, and Ifield Mill Pond, the remains of a long-lived industrial site.

No archaeological deposits were encountered in the area of the new extension, which had been heavily disturbed during the installation of various services. A collection of 20th century glassware and a small assemblage of blast furnace slag were recovered from the garden soil.

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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 (CAA) at the Institute of Archaeology (IoA), University College London (UCL) was commissioned by Mr Tony Scowen to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Mill Cottage, Hyde Drive, Ifield, West Sussex, hereafter referred to as 'the site'. The site is centred on National Grid Reference (NGR) 524517 136466 (Figure 1)

1.2 Geology and Topography

1.2.1 The site is located immediately to the north of Ifield Mill, a Grade II listed building. Mill Cottage itself is not listed, and is believed to have been constructed as a barn, before conversion into a dwelling in the 1930s (RDJW Architects 2015, 2).

1.2.2 According to current data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of Weald Clay, with local deposits of alluvial clay associated with the Ifield Brook (BGS 2017).

1.3 Planning Background

1.3.1 Planning permission has been granted by Crawley Borough Council for the erection of an extension to the existing dwelling at the site (planning ref. CR/2015/0824/FUL). Following consultations between Crawley Borough Council and Surrey County Council (acting as Crawley Borough Council's advisers on archaeological issues) a condition (no.6) was attached to the planning consent requiring that:

> *'No development shall take place until the applicant has secured the implementation of a programme of archaeological work in accordance with a Written Scheme of Investigation which has been submitted by the applicant and approved by the Planning Authority.*
>
> *REASON: The site is of archaeological significance and it is important that it is recorded by excavation before it is destroyed by development in accordance with Policy BN17 of the Crawley Borough Local Plan 2000.'*

1.3.2 Subsequently a Written Scheme of Investigation (WSI) for the archaeological work was prepared (ASE 2016) and approved by surrey County Council for the commencement of work at the site. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on site (in this case an

archaeological watching brief), and in the preparation of a report and archive of the results.

1.4 Aims and Objectives

1.4.1 The overall aim of the archaeological watching brief given in the WSI (*ibid.*) was to:

> *'record any archaeological features, deposits and artefacts that may be impacted by the development.'*

1.4.2 Site-specific research aims were also included (*ibid)*

> *'Prehistoric*
> *Although the excavation at the mill (immediately south of the site) did not reveal any Prehistoric remains, can any evidence for Prehistoric activity be identified on the site?*
>
> *Roman*
> *The bloomery identified south of the site was dated to medieval times. Is there, however any evidence for earlier iron working at the site?*
>
> *Medieval / Post-Medieval*
> *Is there any evidence for medieval activity on the Site?*
>
> *Can we further the evidence for the mill development in medieval times and through to the post-medieval period?'*

1.5 Scope of Report

1.5.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site undertaken on 24th January 2017 by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist).) The project was managed by Jon Sygrave (Fieldwork Manager) and by Jim Stevenson Post-excavation Manager).

2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

2.1 Overview

2.1.1 The following background information has been taken from the WSI (ASE 2016), largely paraphrased from the post-excavation assessment and updated project design report on recent archaeological work at Ifield Pond (ASE 2015).

Site No.	HER No.	Description
Archaeological Notification Areas - Polygon		
1	DWS8650	Archaeological Notification Area. Ifield Medieval Forge, Ifield, Crawley
2	DWS8516	Archaeological Notification Area. Iron Ore Industry and Medieval Moated Site, Rusper
Monument – Point Data		
3	MWS106	Parkscape – Post-Medieval
4	MWS668	Watermill – Post-Medieval
5	MWS921	Ironstone Workings – 16th Century Forge
6	MWS11351	Heath Cottage, Historic Farmstead, Rusper – Post-Medieval
7	MWS11829	Hyde Farm Historic Farmstead, Rusper – Post-Medieval
Listed Buildings – Point Data		
8	DWS4906	Brook Cottage, 17th Century House. Grade II
9	DWS5900	Ifield Mill House, 16th Century. Grade II
10	DWS4868	Ifield Watermill, 19th Century. Grade II
11	DWS4851	Turks Croft, 15th Century House. Grade II

Table 1: Summary of HER/SMR data

2.2 Period Summaries

Prehistoric

2.2.1 A chance find of un-retouched blades and flakes at the southern side of The Mill Pond 'near the water edge', is reported by Wymer (1977) but not recorded on the HER. Mesolithic and Neolithic flint scatters have also been found in the broader vicinity of the site.

Romano-British

2.2.2 Bloomeries (Roman or medieval ironworking sites) have been identified on the left (south) bank of the Broadfield Brook, diagonally opposite the proposed South Pond car parking area, and on the bank of the Ifield Brook, downstream of the Mill Pond.

2.2.3 A watching brief at St Wilfreds Roman Catholic Secondary School, *c*.1.5km east of the site, was inconclusive regarding the dating of the ironworking evidence, which may be of Iron Age or Roman date.

Medieval

2.2.4 The place-name Ifield (also known historically as Yfeld, Ifelde and Ifelt) is interpreted as "Yew" felde –'open land where yew grew'. However, the land surrounding the site was once part of the densely forested deer park of Bewbush. The first documentary evidence for Ifield is recorded in the Domesday Book of 1086.

2.2.5 The first mention of a mill in Ifield dates from 1247 when the tithe for the mill was awarded to the Chaplain of Crawley. In 1341, the Rector of Ifield was awarded 6s.8d. as the tithe of a mill. However, the location of this (or these) original mills in Ifield is not known.

2.2.6 The predecessor to the current Ifield Water Mill was a flour mill known to have been erected on the site of a former ironworks whose forge was worked from 1574, and possibly earlier (MWS921). The Mill Pond, located at the convergence of the headstreams of the river Mole was originally the hammer pond that supplied water to the water-powered Ifield Forge iron-working site. The forge itself was very probably located where Ifield Mill now stands.

Post-Medieval and Industrial

2.2.7 Ifield Water Mill is located on the site of the above mentioned Ifield Forge iron-working site. The forge, which had been worked by Roger Gratwick in 1574, who also owned the Ifield Furnace, was burnt down in 1643 by Parliamentarian forces under Sir William Waller following the siege of Arundel. Water power was provided by damming streams to form the "hammer" pond, which would feed the overshot wheel used to operate the bellows.

2.2.8 Ifield Water Mill incorporates a date plaque of an earlier corn mill erected in 1683 (MWS668). The current Ifield Water Mill was built circa 1817. Its large water pond, which in 1841 covered 22 acres, is now intersected by the railway.

2.2.9 Ifield Mill was practically unused from 1927 (when it ceased being a corn-mill) until 1974, when it was acquired by Crawley Borough Council. All the machinery had been sold as scrap metal during the Second World War. Shortly after a group consisting for the most part of volunteers engaged in restoring the mill to a working condition with the ultimate aim of making it accessible to the general public.

2.2.10 Ifield Water Mill is four storeys high, with the ground floor walls formed in brick, and the sides of the upper floors of white painted weatherboarding. The Mill has been restored. The ground floor houses the machinery, the first floor is the grinding floor and one of the three original grindstones has been restored to working order. The second floor is the cleaning floor and the third floor is the storage floor. The roof is of grey slate, with a 'lucam' (sack hoist) located on the northern side of the building. The overshot water wheel is located on the western side of the building.

2.3 Recent Archaeological Investigation

2.3.1 Recent archaeological monitoring work during extensive remodelling work carried out on Ifield Mill Pond uncovered elements of the first Wealden Forge site to be explored in *c*.25 years. In addition to remains related to the forge, evidence of earlier, medieval ironworking were also encountered as well as structures and deposits related to later phases of industrial activity at the site. (ASE 2015).

3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 Mechanical and limited manual excavation of strip footings was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist (Figure 2). All sections were examined for the presence of archaeological features, and all spoil was scanned for archaeological artefacts.

3.1.2 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. A full photographic record of the work was kept maintained throughout.

3.3 The Site Archive

3.3.1 The site archive is currently held at the offices of ASE and will be offered to Crawley Museum in due course. The contents of the archive are tabulated below (Tables 1 & 2).

Context sheets	3
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	16
Context register	1
Drawing register	0
Watching brief forms	1
Trench Record forms	0

Table 2: Quantification of site paper archive

Bulk finds (quantity e.g. 1 bag, 1 box, 0.5 box 0.5 of a box)	1 box
Registered finds (number of)	
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 3: Quantification of artefact and environmental samples

3.3.2 The finds and environmental samples ultimately deposited as part of the archive are dependent on specialist recommendations and regional archive requirements.

4.0 RESULTS

4.1 Monitoring of Footing Trenches on 23rd January 2017

Context	Type	Interpretation	Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Made ground	0.39 - 0.41
002	Layer	Garden Soil	0.39 - 1.10
003	Layer	Natural	-

Table 4: List of recorded contexts

4.1.1 The mechanical excavation of footing trenches for an extension to Mill Cottage was monitored. The trenches were 0.60m wide and were excavated to a maximum depth of 1.3m by a Takeuchi TB288 excavator.

4.1.2 The encountered stratigraphic sequence was straightforward, and consisted of the natural [003], a brownish orange slightly silty clay typical of the Weald Clay geological formation, overlain by layers of overburden. Close to the standing building, made ground [001] consisted of a mixture of topsoil containing brick and concrete rubble (with some *in situ* concrete and brickwork) associated with the remains of a recently demolished extension. This extended a maximum of 3.0m from the standing structure.

4.1.3 Further away from the house, a very mixed deposit of mid-greyish brown to mid-brown silty clay garden soil with limited quantities of brick rubble was recorded as [002]. This deposit was heavily disturbed by service trenches. It varied considerably in depth, partially owing to the disturbance from the services. An assemblage of 20th century glassware and a limited quantity of blast furnace slag were recovered from this deposit.

5.0 THE FINDS

5.1 Summary

5.1.1 A small assemblage of finds was recovered during the watching brief at Mill Cottage, Ifield. All finds were washed and dried or air dried as appropriate. They were subsequently quantified by count and weight and were bagged by material and context (Table 5). All finds have been packed and stored following CIfA guidelines (2014).

Context	Slag	Weight (g)	Glass	Weight (g)
2	8	2140	24	8220
Total	8	2140	24	8220

Table 5: Finds quantification

5.2 **The Glass** by Luke Barber

5.2.1 The archaeological monitoring recovered a moderately large assemblage of glass from the site: 24 pieces weighing just under 8220g (including an associated top). Sixteen different vessels are present. The material, which was all recovered from [002] is mainly composed of complete vessels. The assemblage has been fully listed on Excel table for the archive giving specific details about each type of vessel, its full embossing details and its variations in dimensions and weight. The functional breakdown of the assemblage is given in Table 6. A general overview of the assemblage is given here, but detailed work on the branded bottles has not been undertaken as part of the current work.

General Type	Specific Type	Estimated Number of Vessels represented.
Drink Alcoholic	Beer	1
Drink Alcoholic	Beer/wine	1
Drink Alcoholic	Wine	1
Drink Alcoholic	Spirit	7
Drink Non-alcoholic	Mineral water	3
Drink Non-alcoholic	Cordial	2
Household	Medicine?	1
Total		16

Table 6: Breakdown of glass assemblage by probable use.

Alcoholic drinks

5.2.2 These notably dominate the assemblage, accounting for 10 of the 16 vessels. Although beer and wine are represented the majority relates to spirits, most notably gin. The W & A Gilby bottle (Oxford street, London) and Booth's example are almost certainly gin bottles – both companies being famous for it through much of the 20th century. Although some of the others could also be gin bottles a number of other types, including whiskey, could be represented.

Non-alcoholic drinks

5.2.3 Two of the mineral water bottles are in fact for Pepsi-Cola and these, along with the R. FRY bottle (of Brighton), could easily have complemented the spirits as mixers. Once again, both companies were long-lived throughout the 20th century. The two cordial bottles could also have been used for mixers with spirits or for the consumption of non-alcoholic refreshment. Both cordial bottles have typical embossed textures/designs for their type though only the Rose & Co example is branded.

Conclusion

5.2.4 The glass assemblage is not a typical domestic assemblage in that it has a heavy bias towards alcoholic drinks and a virtual absence of food and household products. This may be in part due to its late date, but even post WW2 domestic assemblages may be expected to contain meat paste and sauces. As has been noted, the few branded pieces are all from companies that spanned a large portion of the 20th century (or beyond). As such, close dating without further detailed work on vessel typology for specific brands is not easy. However, the current assemblage can best be placed between c. 1920 and 1960, perhaps with the emphasis on the second half of this range.

5.3 **The Metallurgical Remains** by Luke Barber

5.3.1 Context [002] produced a sample of eight fresh pieces (2140g) of blast furnace slag. All pieces are quite large and fresh, usually being dark olive to black in colour. Although the material relates to a water-powered iron blast furnace, most probably of the 16th to early 18th centuries, it is likely to have been removed from its initial point of deposition, either at the time or in later periods.

6.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS

6.1 The results of the archaeological watching brief show that there had been extensive recent truncation and mixing of deposits at the site, with the natural uncovered beneath 20th century overburden deposits. Some of the disturbance is likely to result from the conversion of the cottage in the 1930s from its original use as a barn, associated with the Mill House estate (RDJW Architects 2015).

6.2 Although no archaeological deposits were revealed during the work, a small finds assemblage was recovered from the site. The non-domestic, commercial nature of the glass bottle assemblage can be explained by the association of the barn with Mill House, which was licenced during the 20th century (RDJW Architects 2015).

6.3 The presence of blast furnace slag is common in much of the Weald, and given the material's notorious mobility (Cleere and Crossley, 1995, 275) and the proximity of the garden to the known area of ironworking to the north, the recovery of this material is not surprising.

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HER Summary

HER enquiry no.						
Site code	IMC 16					
Project code	160950					
Planning reference	CR/2015/0824/FUL					
Site address	Mill Cottage, Hyde Drive, Ifield					
District/Borough	Crawley Borough					
NGR (12 figures)	524517 136466					
Geology	Weald Clay					
Fieldwork type	Eval	Excav	WB ✓	HBR	Survey	Other
Date of fieldwork	23.01.2017					
Sponsor/client	Mr Tony Scowen					
Project manager	Jon Sygrave					
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens					
Period summary	Palaeolithic	Mesolithic	Neolithic	Bronze Age	Iron Age	
	Roman	Anglo-Saxon	Medieval	Post-Medieval ✓	Other	
Project summary **(100 word max)**	Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an extension at Mill Cottage, Hyde Drive, Ifield, West Sussex. The property lies immediately adjacent to Ifield Mill, a grade II listed building, and Ifield Mill Pond, the remains of a long-lived industrial site. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered in the area of the new extension, which had been heavily disturbed during the installation of various services. A collection of 20th century glassware and a small assemblage of blast furnace slag were recovered from the garden soil.					

Finds summary

Find type	Material	Period	Quantity
bottle	glass	modern	8220 grams
slag	iron	Post-medieval	2140 grams

OASIS Form

OASIS ID: archaeol6-274268

Project details

Project name	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Mill Cottage, Hyde Road, Ifield, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks for an extension at Mill Cottage, Hyde Drive, Ifield, West Sussex. The property lies immediately adjacent to Ifield Mill, a grade II listed building, and Ifield Mill Pond, the remains of a long-lived industrial complex. No significant archaeological deposits were encountered in the area of the new extension, which had been heavily disturbed during the installation of various services. A collection of 20th century glassware and a small assemblage of blast furnace slag were recovered from the garden soil.
Project dates	Start: 23-01-2017 End: 23-01-2017
Previous/future work	No / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	160950 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	IMC 16 - Sitecode
Any associated project reference codes	CR/2015/0824/FUL - Planning Application No.
Type of project	Recording project
Site status	None
Current Land use	Other 5 - Garden
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	GLASS Modern
Significant Finds	BLAST FURNACE SLAG Post Medieval
Investigation type	'"Watching Brief"'
Prompt	Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPS

Project location

Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX CRAWLEY CRAWLEY Mill Cottage, Hyde Road, Ifield

Study area	30 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 24517 36466 51.113400974518 -0.220913543511 51 06 48 N 000 13 15 W Point

Project creators

Name of Organisation	Archaeology South-East
Project brief originator	Archaeology South-East
Project design originator	Archaeology South-East
Project director/manager	JON SYGRAVE
Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Mr Tony Scowen

Project archives

Physical Archive recipient	Crawley Museum
Physical Contents	"Glass","Industrial"
Digital Archive recipient	Crawley Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Crawley Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Miscellaneous Material","Notebook - Excavation"," Research"," General Notes","Unpublished Text"

Project bibliography 1

Publication type	Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title	An Archaeological Watching Brief at Mill Cottage, Hyde Road, Ifield, West Sussex
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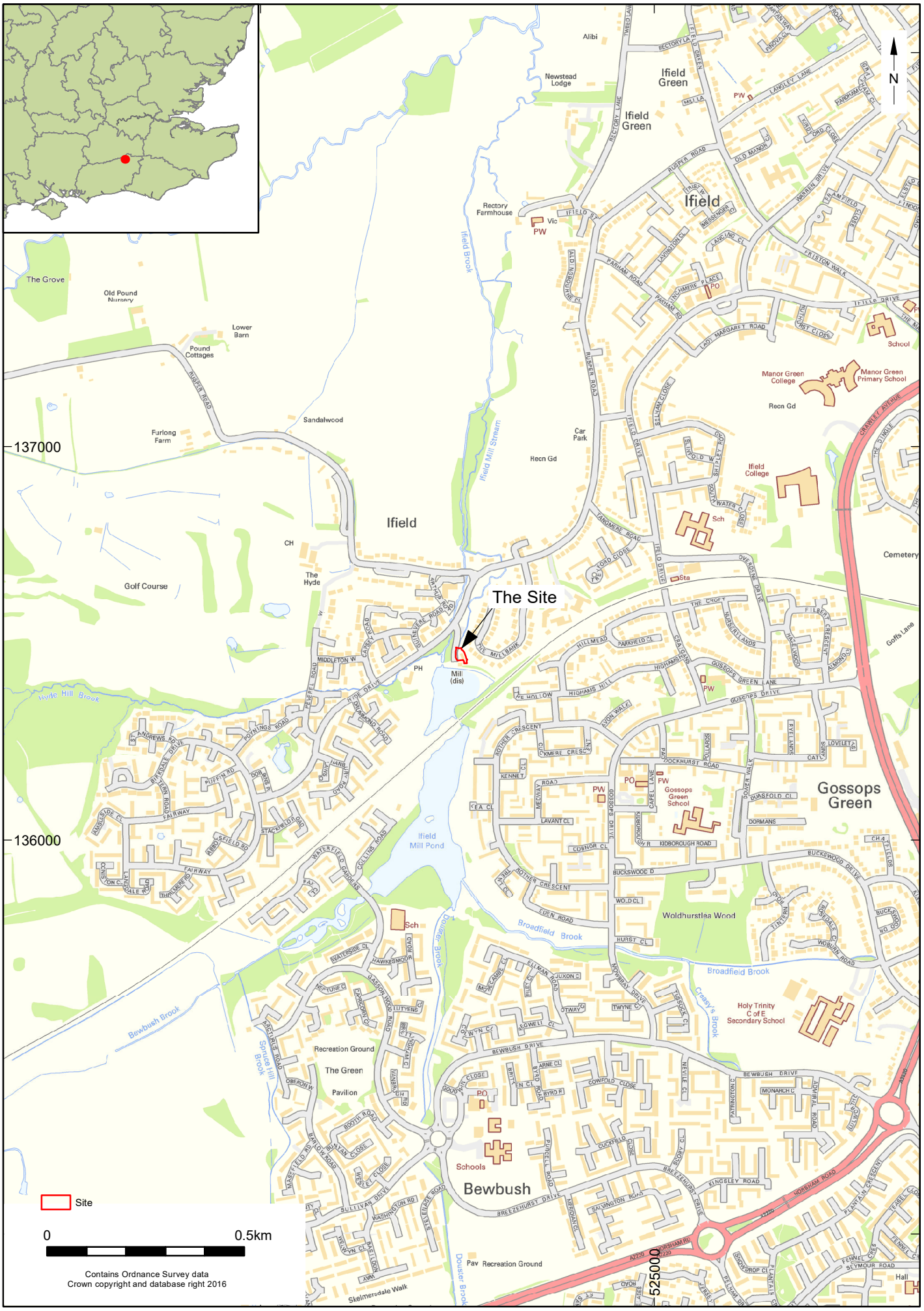
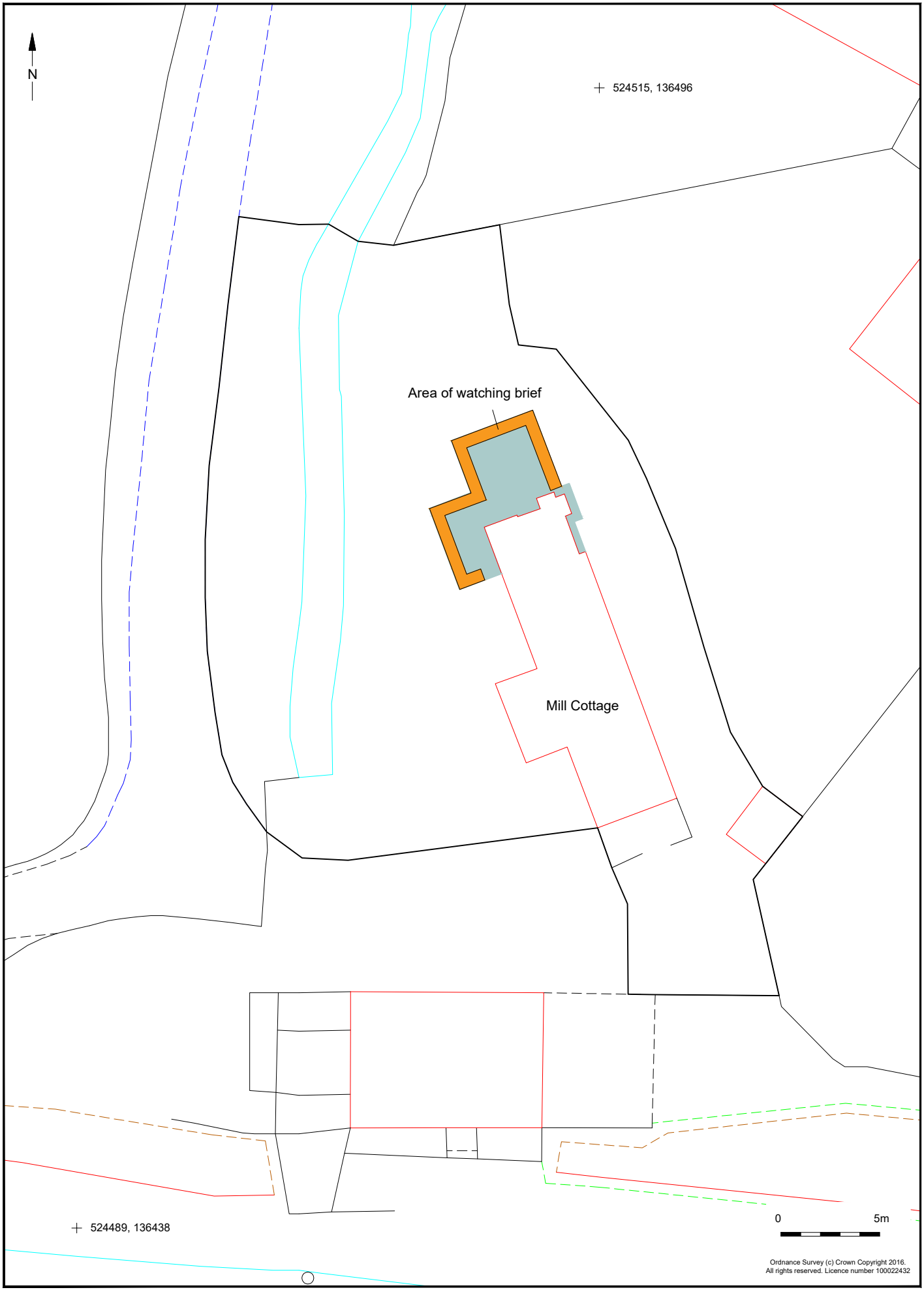


© Archaeology South-East		Mill Cottage, Ifield	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 160950	Jan 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017028	Drawn by: AR		



© Archaeology South-East		Mill Cottage, Ifield	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 160950	Jan 2017	Location of watching brief	
Report Ref: 2017028	Drawn by: AR		

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