

**Archaeological Watching Brief Report  
Sompting Water Supply Works  
Dankton Lane, Sompting  
West Sussex**

**NGR: 516747 106325  
(TQ 16747 06325)**

**Permitted Development**

**ASE Project No: 170209  
Site Code: DAN 17**

**ASE Report No: 2017272  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-287357**



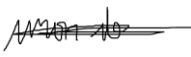

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<b>Date of Issue:</b>	<b>June 2017</b>		
<b>Revision:</b>			

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Sompting Water Supply Works, Dankton Lane, Sompting, West Sussex.*

*Mechanical ground reduction of an area measuring c.14m by c.14m was monitored. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded. The archaeological watching brief revealed that the monitored area had previously been disturbed to at least 2m below ground level during construction of the water works.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE) was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Sompting Water Supply Works, Dankton Lane, Sompting, West Sussex (NGR 516747 106325; Figure 1).

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

1.2.1 The site lies on the eastern side of Dankton Lane, a partially metalled track to the north of the A27. It forms part of the compound of Sompting Water Supply Works, which lies amid open fields c.500m to the north-east of Sompting church.

1.2.2 According to current available data from the British Geological Survey, the underlying geology consists of the Newhaven Chalk Formation, with a band of superficial head deposits running south-east to north-west immediately to the west of the site (BGS 2017)

### **1.3 Planning Background**

1.3.1 As permitted development under the terms of the Town and Country Planning (General Permitted Development; England) Order 2015, the scheme falls outside of the usual Local Planning Authority framework(s).

1.3.2 However, following consultation between Southern Water and ASE it was agreed that archaeological monitoring of the groundworks associated with the scheme would be prudent.

1.3.3 Subsequently a *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2017) for the archaeological work was prepared by ASE. The document outlined the methodologies to be used on-site and in the reporting and archiving of the results of the monitoring of the groundworks.

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

1.4.1 This report details the results of the archaeological monitoring of groundworks at the site undertaken on 12th June 2017 by Simon Stevens (Senior Archaeologist).

## **2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND**

### **2.1 Introduction**

2.1.1 The following information is taken directly from the *Written Scheme of Investigation* (ASE 2017), the data retrieved from the Historic Environment Record (HER) held by West Sussex County Council. HER records from within a 1km radius of the site include the following:

- *Site of an Iron Age shrine, probably pre-Claudian in date and a Romano-Celtic temple dating from the post conquest period to the end of C2nd. Iron Age, Roman and possibly Saxon coins found. 35 graves found of possible Prehistoric date – c.800m east of the site.*
- *Prehistoric cross ridge dyke and trackway. In the western part the ditch is 6m wide and 1m deep and flanked to the south east by a bank 5m wide and 0.7m high. Excavations located Iron Age and Romano-British pottery, a flint scraper, and a Romano-British bronze pin. The western section is scheduled – and c.400m north of the site.*
- *Several Bronze Age barrows – closest is c.400m east of the site*
- *A Bronze hoard comprising a cauldron, socketed axes and phalerae found 1946 at Hill Barn, Sompting, c.600m east of the site*
- *A Romano-British lamp, c 600m east of the site*
- *RB pottery scatter c.800m north of the site*
- *Iron Age 'A', Romano-British (C1st&3rd), pagan Anglo-Saxon & C14th/15th pottery, undated mineralised animal bones, all allegedly from same site c.700m south of the site*
- *Roman field system c.400m north of the site*
- *The cropmark remains of a probable a Romano-British settlement mapped from aerial photographs c.700m north of the site.*

2.1.2 In addition, the site is located in a locally designated *Archaeological Notification Area* (DWS8174 - Bronze Age, Iron Age and Roman Features on Steep Down, Sompting and Lancing).

## 2.2 Research Aims and Objectives

- 2.2.1 The general objective of the archaeological watching brief given in the *Written Scheme of Investigation (ibid.)* was to record archaeological deposits and/or finds exposed by the groundworks..

### ***Specific Research Aims***

- 2.2.2 It was also noted that the watching brief had the potential to address the following research objectives set out in the South-East Research Framework (SERF 2014):

#### ***Bronze Age***

*How can we refine our understanding on what people did on day to day basis during the Middle Bronze Age and Iron Age?*

*Settlement history: What was the long-term history of the Middle Bronze Age/Late Bronze Age land divisions?*

#### ***Romano-British***

*Areas around temples, which are potentially just as important as the temple sites themselves, need to be examined systematically.*

*Clarification of the characteristics of the lesser nucleated settlements, and hence of their role in relationship to surrounding rural settlements*

*Characterisation of non-villa settlement: in terms of: Agricultural economy - systematic examination not only of 'structural' aspects, but also particularly of animal and plant remains, where extant.*

- 2.2.3 A final aim was to make public the results of the archaeological watching brief subject to any confidentiality restrictions.

### 3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY

#### 3.1 Fieldwork Methodology

3.1.1 Mechanical ground reduction at the site was monitored on 12th June 2017. The ground level in an area measuring c.14m by c.14m was reduced, involving the partial removal of a substantial bank in the north-eastern corner of the works compound.

3.1.2 Mechanical ground reduction was monitored by a suitably qualified archaeologist. All sections were examined for archaeological deposits and all spoil was scanned for the presence of archaeological artefacts, both visually and with a metal detector. All encountered deposits were recorded according 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 monitoring was maintained.

#### 3.2 Fieldwork Constraints

3.2.1 There were no physical constraints to the monitoring of the groundworks.

#### 3.3 The Site Archive

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

Context sheets	2
Section sheets	0
Plans sheets	0
Colour photographs	0
B&W photos	0
Digital photos	10
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

(Figure 3)

Context	Type	Description	Max. Deposit Thickness m
001	Layer	Topsoil	0.32
002	Layer	Chalk Rubble	>2.0

Table 3: List of recorded contexts

## 4.2 The Stratigraphic Sequence

4.2.1 The recorded stratigraphic sequence was straightforward. It consisted of a mid-orangey brown silty clay topsoil, context [001], which overlay a substantial deposit of chalk rubble which contained fragments of brick, concrete, timber and pieces of plastic sheeting, context [002]. No other deposits were encountered during the monitoring, which extended more than 2m below the current surface of the clearly modern bank.

4.2.2 No archaeological features, deposits or finds were encountered.

## **5.0 DISCUSSION AND CONCLUSIONS**

### **5.1 Overview of stratigraphic sequence**

- 5.1.1 The stratigraphic sequence in the monitored area was all of deposits previously disturbed in the modern period; there were no archaeological deposits or features or finds.

### **5.2 Deposit survival and existing impacts**

- 5.2.1 The previous creation of the works compound and associated bank had clearly altered the topography of the local area and had caused truncation in the area monitored to a depth of at least 2m below ground level.

### **5.3 Discussion of archaeological remains by period**

- 5.3.1 No archaeological deposits, features or finds were encountered during the monitoring of the groundworks.

### **5.4 Consideration of research aims**

- 5.4.1 Given the absence of deposits, features or artefacts, the research aims identified in the WSI (ASE 2017) could not be addressed.

### **5.5 Conclusions**

- 5.6.1 The archaeological watching brief revealed that the monitored area had previously been disturbed to at least 2m below ground level during construction of the water works. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were uncovered.

## **BIBLIOGRAPHY**

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BGS, 2017 British Geological Survey, Geology of Britain Viewer, accessed 13.06.2017  
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<http://www.kent.gov.uk/leisure-and-community/history-and-heritage/south-east-research-framework>

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

ASE would like to thank Southern Water for commissioning the archaeological work and John Mills of West Sussex County Council for his input at all stages. Thanks are also due to the on-site ground workers from MGJV for their co-operation and hospitality.

**HER Summary**

<b>Site code</b>	DAN 17				
<b>Project code</b>	170209				
<b>Planning reference</b>	Permitted Development				
<b>Site address</b>	Sompting WSW, Dankton Lane, Sompting				
<b>District/Borough</b>	Adur District				
<b>NGR (12 figures)</b>	516747 106325				
<b>Geology</b>	Chalk				
<b>Fieldwork type</b>			WB		
<b>Dates of fieldwork</b>	12.06.2017				
<b>Sponsor/client</b>	Southern Water				
<b>Project manager</b>	Paul Mason				
<b>Project supervisor</b>	Simon Stevens				
<b>Period summary</b>					
					None
<b>Project summary</b>	<p>Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Sompting Water Supply Works, Dankton Lane, Sompting, West Sussex (NGR 516747 106325).</p> <p>Mechanical ground reduction of an area measuring c.14m by c.14m was monitored. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded. The archaeological watching brief revealed that the monitored area had previously been disturbed to at least 2m below ground level during construction of the water works.</p>				

## OASIS Form

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-287357**

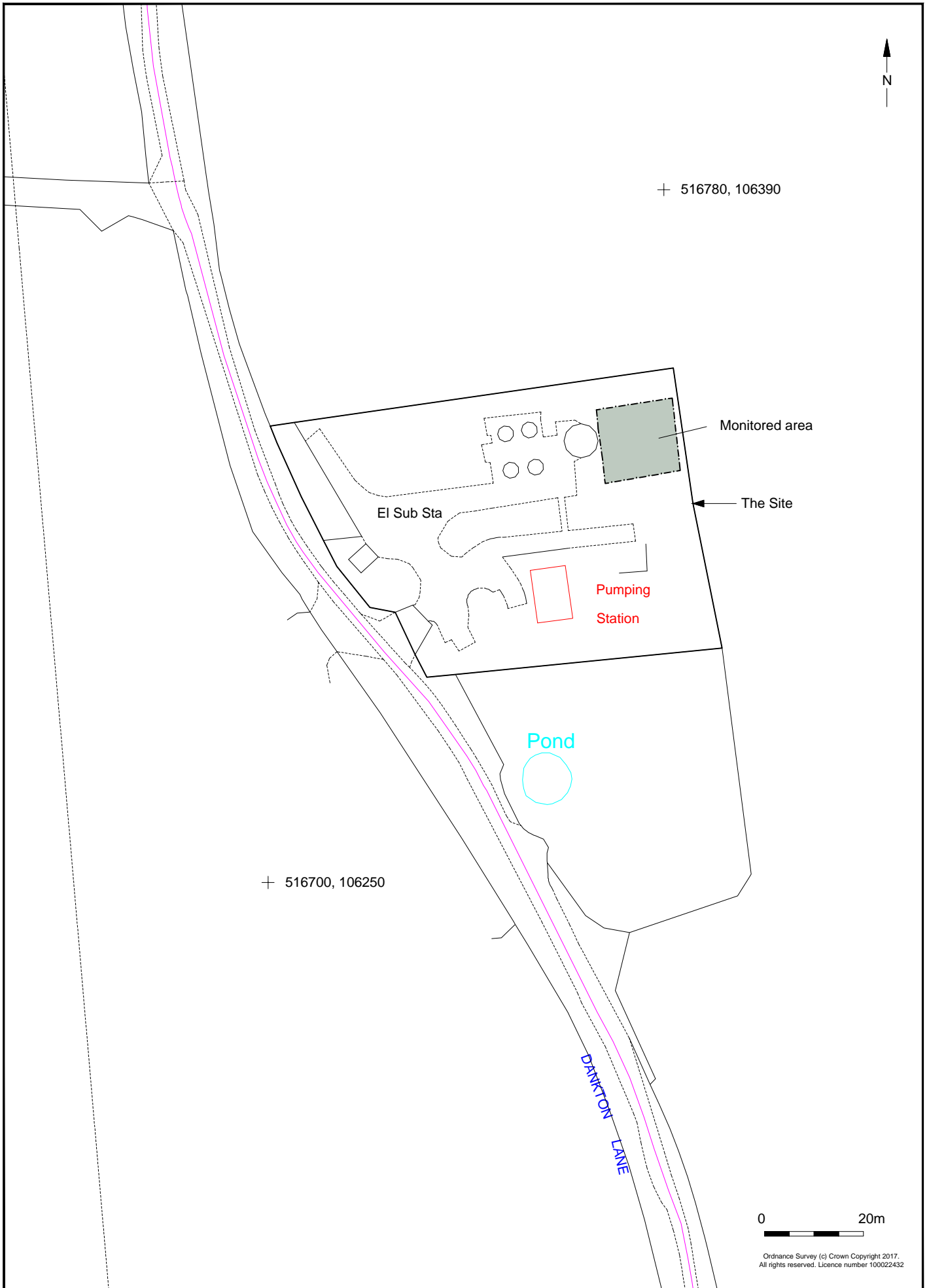
### Project details

Project name	Archaeological Watching Brief Report - Sompting Water Supply Works, Dankton Lane, Sompting, West Sussex
Short description of the project	Archaeology South-East was commissioned by Southern Water to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks at Sompting Water Supply Works, Dankton Lane, Sompting, West Sussex (NGR 516747 106325). Mechanical ground reduction of an area measuring c.14m by c.14m was monitored. No archaeological deposits, features or finds were recorded. The archaeological watching brief revealed that the monitored area had previously been disturbed to at least 2m below ground level during construction of the water works.
Project dates	Start: 12-06-2017 End: 12-06-2017
Previous/future work	Not known / Not known
Any associated project reference codes	170209 - Contracting Unit No.
Any associated project reference codes	DAN 17 - Sitecode
Type of project	Recording project
Monument type	NONE None
Significant Finds	NONE None
Investigation type	"Watching Brief"
Prompt	Water Act 1989 and subsequent code of practice
Project location	
Country	England
Site location	WEST SUSSEX ADUR SOMPTING Sompting WSW, Dankton Lane
Postcode	BN15 0JT
Study area	200 Square metres
Site coordinates	TQ 16747 06325 50.844086946533 -0.341561717343 50 50 38 N 000 20 29 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	Paul Mason

Project supervisor	Simon Stevens
Type of sponsor/funding body	Client
Name of sponsor/funding body	Southern Water
Project archives	
Physical Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Physical Contents	"other"
Digital Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Digital Contents	"other"
Digital Media available	"Images raster / digital photography","Text"
Paper Archive recipient	Worthing Museum
Paper Contents	"other"
Paper Media available	"Context sheet","Correspondence","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 Sompting WSW, Dankton Lane, Sompting
Author(s)/Editor(s)	Stevens, S.
Other bibliographic details	ASE Report No. 2017272
Date	2017
Issuer or publisher	Archaeology South-East
Place of issue or publication	Portslade, East Sussex
Description	Standard ASE client Report. A4-sized with cover logos.
Entered by	Simon Stevens (simon.stevens@ucl.ac.uk)
Entered on	15 June 2017



© Archaeology South-East		Dankton Lane, Sompting	Fig. 1
Project Ref: 170209	June 2017	Site location	
Report Ref: 2017272	Drawn by: JLR		



© Archaeology South-East		Dankton Lane, Sompting	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 170209	June 2017	Monitored area	
Report Ref: 2017272	Drawn by: JLR		





Working area looking south before excavation



Topsoil stripping looking south-west



Working area looking south during excavation

© Archaeology South-East		Dankton Lane, Sompting	Fig. 3
Project Ref: 170209	June 2017	Photographs	
Report Ref: 2017272	Drawn by: JLR		

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