

**AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL WATCHING BRIEF  
DURING THE  
STONE CROSS FIRST TIME SEWERAGE SCHEME, STONE CROSS, EAST SUSSEX.**

**NGR 561607 105164 to 561424 104508  
(TQ 616 051 to 614 045)**

**Project No.3513  
Site Code: SCS 09**

**ASE Report No. 2009044  
OASIS ID: archaeol6-56831**

**by  
Diccon Hart  
with contributions by  
Trista Clifford**

**April 2009**

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**Abstract**

*Archaeology South East was commissioned by HMP:JV Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the first time sewerage scheme at Stone Cross, East Sussex. (NGR 561607 105164 to 561424 104508). No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the monitoring, with the exception of some plough scarring of the underlying natural clay observed at the northern end of the scheme.*

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## **1.0 INTRODUCTION**

### **1.1 Site Background**

- 1.1.1 Archaeology South-East (ASE), a division of University College London Centre for Applied Archaeology (UCLCAA), was commissioned by HMPJV Ltd to undertake a programme of archaeological works during groundworks associated with the construction of the Stone Cross First Time Sewerage Scheme. The scheme was located between NGR 561607 105164 and 561424 104508 and its location is shown in Figure 1.

### **1.2 Geology and Topography**

- 1.2.1 The British Geographical Survey Map (Sheets 288-9/304/305/306) for the area shows the underlying geology to comprise Weald Clay over Hastings Beds. The site consists of a currently vacant grassed plot, with an area of hard standing to the northwest. It is bounded to the west and south by Coulter Road and to the east by residential housing. An unmade footpath forms the northern boundary to the site.

### **1.3 Planning Background**

- 1.3.1 The scheme involves the installation of a new sewer and rising main (Figure 2). The County Archaeologist, East Sussex County Council (ESCC) was consulted and owing to the scheme's proximity to known archaeological sites and find spots (see below), requested that an archaeological watching brief be maintained during groundworks associated with the project.
- 1.3.2 A *Written Scheme of Investigation* setting out the scope of the work was subsequently produced by Archaeology South-East (ASE 2008) and duly submitted to and approved by the County Archaeologist in his capacity as advisor to the Local Planning Authority on archaeological matters.

### **1.4 Scope of Report**

- 1.4.1 This report details the results of an archaeological watching brief undertaken during groundworks on the site. The work was undertaken between 28<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and 16th January 2009 by Kathy Grant, Andy Margetts and Sarah Porteus (Archaeologists), Liane Peyre (Assistant Archaeologist) and Diccon Hart (Senior Archaeologist). The fieldwork was managed by Jon Sygrave (Project Manager) and the post-excavation analysis was managed by Jim Stevenson (Project Manager).

## 2.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL BACKGROUND

- 2.1 A Cultural Heritage Assessment has previously been prepared by Atkins Heritage and this document should be consulted for a detailed archaeological background. A gazetteer of known cultural heritage sites as identified by Atkins Heritage is reproduced below with due acknowledgments.
- 2.2 Generally speaking, the results of the Cultural Heritage Assessment indicated that few archaeological sites and finds are known within 500m of the proposed scheme and that, as a consequence, the scheme was deemed to exert only a Slight Adverse Effect on buried archaeological deposits (Atkins Heritage 2008).

No.	Type	Date	Name / Description	Source Reference	National Grid Reference
1	Site	Roman	Roman Road, Pevensey to Selmeston to Glynde Roman Roman Road.	MES4753	TQ 5627 0579
2	Site	Medieval	Possible site of a Medieval Manor House.	MES5054	TQ 6084 0495
3	Findspot	Unknown	Flint implement found at Hankham, 1951.	MES5045	TQ 61 05
4	Site	Modern	Railway Platform	MES5049	TQ 615 041
5	Findspot	Unknown	Small whetstone found in Westham.	MES5029	TQ 63 04
6	Findspot	Multi-Period	Mesolithic, Bronze Age, Iron Age, Roman and Medieval finds from the fields around Mill Hill and Hankham, including worked flints, axes, cores, flakes and pottery dating from the Iron Age to Medieval.	MES5042	TQ 618 059
7	Site	Post Medieval	Priesthawes, a late 16th century house, with 19th century frontage.	MES5044	TQ 6070 0586
<b>Listed Buildings</b>					
8	Listed Building	Post-Medieval	'The Peelings' Small symmetrical 17th century house of stone with two gabled wings and a recessed three-bay centre. <b>Grade II Listed Building</b>	MES5034	TQ 6182 0490
9	Listed Building	Post-Medieval	Stone Cross Windmill, built ca 1876-7 by F Neve and Son of Heithfield for the Dallaway family. <b>Grade II* Listed Building</b>	MES5040	TQ 6195 0431
10	Event	Modern	Excavation carried out by Museum of Sussex Archaeology in the 1930s, at Stone Cross, Peeling Lane, Section 41. The results of this excavation are not known	EES9250	TQ 61700 04600

Table 1: Gazetteer of Known Cultural Heritage Sites (after Atkins Heritage 2008)

### **3.0 ARCHAEOLOGICAL METHODOLOGY**

#### **3.1 Methodology**

- 3.1.1 Initially, all ground reduction and trenching was carried out under the constant supervision of an experienced archaeologist. Monitoring of excavations in roadways, however, soon demonstrated little potential for the survival of archaeological deposits here and with the agreement of the ESCC County Archaeologist no further monitoring of excavations in roadways was undertaken. Parts of the scheme subject to archaeological monitoring are shown on Figure 2.
- 3.1.2 Wherever possible, machine excavation was undertaken using a tracked mechanical excavator equipped with a toothless ditching bucket (although the latter was not always practical). Where archaeological features or deposits were revealed, machining was stopped and excavation was continued by hand. The spoil from the machine excavations was scanned for the presence of any artefacts, both visually and using a metal detector.
- 3.1.3 All encountered archaeological deposits, features and finds were excavated and recorded in accordance with accepted professional standards, the *Recommended Standard Conditions for Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work (Development Control) in East Sussex* (2008), and the approved ASE Written Scheme of Investigation (ASE 2008), using pro-forma context record sheets. Archaeological features and deposits were planned at a scale of 1:50, with selected detail drawn at a scale of 1:20 or 1:10.
- 3.1.4 A photographic record of the work was kept and forms part of the site archive. The archive (quantified in Table 2), including the finds, is presently held at the Archaeology South-East offices at Portslade, and will in due course be offered to a suitable local museum.

#### **3.2 Aims and Objectives**

- 3.2.1 The aims of the fieldwork were set out in the *Written Scheme of Investigation* and are herein reproduced in full.
- 3.2.2 The general objective of the archaeological work is to monitor the groundworks in order to ensure that any artefacts or ecofacts of archaeological and palaeoenvironmental interest exposed and affected by the excavations are recorded and interpreted to appropriate standards. The following specific aims are identified:
- Record the presence or absence of peat deposits at the site that could indicate a more northerly continuation of the *Shinewater*.
  - Establish whether or not Roman cultural activity is present at the site and in particular to establish evidence for the Pevensey to Selmeston to Glynde Roman road.
  - Establish whether evidence of the possible medieval manor exists at the site.

### 3.3 Quantification of Archive

Number of Contexts	20
No. of files/paper record	1 files
Plan and sections sheets	1
Bulk Samples	none
Photographs	1 colour slide film, 1 black and white and digital
Bulk finds	1 box
Registered finds	none
Environmental flots/residue	none

Table 2. Site Archive Quantification

## 4.0 RESULTS (Figure 2)

### 4.1 Introduction

4.1.1 The following areas of the scheme were subject to archaeological monitoring (Figure 2):

- *Area 1:* Contractors compound and associated access road to the north of the scheme.
- *Area 2:* Directional drilling launch pit to east of Hailsham Road
- *Area 3:* Lateral drains and associated manholes to east and west of Hailsham Road
- *Area 4:* Trenching in Crossways to south of scheme.

4.1.2 The remaining elements of the scheme either could not be monitored as work was undertaken using directional drilling equipment or comprised trenching work in roadways, deemed to be of low archaeological potential due to previous disturbance.

4.1.3 Table 3: List of Recorded Contexts

Number	Type	Description	Area	Max. length	Max. width	Max. depth	Max. height (m AOD)
001	Layer	Topsoil	1	120.00m	55.00m	0.15m	12.12m
002	Layer	Made ground	1	7.00m	3.70m	0.30m	11.97m
003	Layer	Natural	1	120.00m	55.00m	-	11.74m
004	Layer	Subsoil	1	120.00m	55.00m	0.50m	11.94m
005	Cut	Plough scar	1	30.00m	0.18m	0.07m	
006	Fill	Fill of [005]	1	30.00m	0.18m	0.07m	
007	Layer	Road makeup	4	40.00m	0.50m	0.50m	22.49m
008	Layer	Topsoil	2	3.50m	1.50m	0.35m	14.00m
009	Layer	Subsoil	2	3.50m	1.50m	0.20m	13.65m
010	Layer	Natural	2	3.50m	1.50m	-	13.45m
011	Layer	Topsoil	3	8.00m	0.50m	0.25m	14.25m
012	Layer	Natural	3	8.00m	0.50m	0.75m	14.00m
013	Layer	Concrete	3	30.00m	0.50m	0.25m	16.36m
014	Layer	Natural	3	30.00m	0.50m	-	16.11m
015	Layer	Made ground	3	30.00m		-	14.40m
016	Layer	Natural	3	34.00m	3.50m	0.55m	16.23m
017	Layer	Natural	3	34.00m	3.50m	-	16.06m
018	Layer	Tarmac/made ground	3	30.00m	0.50m	0.10m	16.36m
019	Layer	Made ground	3	14.00m	0.50m	0.80m	14.28m
020	Layer	Topsoil	3	34.00m	0.50m	0.20m	17.38m

### 4.2 Area 1: Contractors Compound and Associated Access Road

4.2.1 Monitored groundworks in this area included soil stripping of an area measuring up to 120.00m long by 55.00m wide to a depth of 0.40m for the contractors compound

and associated access road. Deeper excavations for the installation of a sump were also monitored in the eastern corner of the compound (location: MH1.12), as well as a directional drilling launch pit in the southern corner of the compound (MH2.08).

- 4.2.2 Natural Weald clay (003) was recorded at a maximum height of 11.74m AOD at the far northeastern end of the access road, falling away to c. 10.59m AOD in the eastern corner of the site compound.
- 4.2.3 Several northeast-southwest aligned plough scars were observed in the surface of the underlying natural within the area of the access road. One such feature was excavated to reveal a shallow cut with rounded profile [005], filled with mid greyish brown sandy silt (006). The plough scars could be traced for some 60.00m before they became obscured by surviving remnants of subsoil in the area of the compound itself. No dating evidence was recovered from any of these features.
- 4.2.4 The plough scars were sealed by a layer of mid yellowish brown sandy silt subsoil (004). At the far northeastern end of the access road, this subsoil was overlain by a layer of recent made ground (002), probably associated with the construction of Hailsham Road, in turn overlain by a layer of mid brownish grey sandy silt topsoil (001).
- 4.2.5 With the exception of the undated plough scars noted above, no archaeological features were observed in this area.

### **4.3 Area 2: Direction Drilling Pit East of Hailsham Road.**

- 4.3.1 Monitored groundworks in this area consisted of the excavation of a directional drilling launch pit measuring c. 3.50m by 1.50m to a depth of 2.50m (location: MH2.05).
- 4.3.2 Natural Weald Clay (010) was recorded at a height of 13.45m AOD. This was overlain by a layer of mid yellowish brown silty clay subsoil (009), capped by a layer of mid brown clayey silt topsoil (008).
- 4.3.3 No archaeological features were observed.

### **4.4 Area 3: Lateral Drains and Associated Manholes to East and West of Hailsham Road**

- 4.4.1 Monitored groundworks here included some 86m of trenching, with associated manholes, to a depth of c. 2.00m on the eastern and western sides of Hailsham Road.
- 4.4.2 The natural (012), (014), (016), (017) consisting mostly of Weald Clay, was recorded at a maximum height of 16.23m AOD at the far eastern end of the Trench (location: MH4.01), falling away to the west to 14.00m (MH3.01). In the vicinity of Hailsham road, this natural clay was directly sealed by recent made ground (015), (018) and (019), associated with construction of the houses fronting Hailsham Road and implying horizontal truncation of the underlying clay. To the rear of these properties the Weald Clay was sealed by a layer of mid greyish brown topsoil (011) and (020).
- 4.4.3 No archaeological features were observed.

### **4.5 Area 4: Trenching in Crossways**

- 4.5.1 Monitored works in this area consisted of the excavation of around 35.00m of trenching along the line of Crossways Road.
- 4.5.2 Natural Weald Clay was recorded at a maximum height of 21.99m AOD at the eastern end of the monitored trench, falling away to 21.80m to the west. This was directly sealed by modern road makeup layers (007), suggesting truncation of the underlying natural deposits during construction of the road.
- 4.5.3 No archaeological features were observed.

## **5.0 THE FINDS**

5.1 No finds were retrieved during the course of the archaeological monitoring.

## **6.0 DISCUSSION**

6.1 With the exception of the plough scarring observed in Area 1 at the far northern end of the scheme, no archaeological features or deposits were observed during the course of the monitoring. This is perhaps unsurprising, given the very limited exposures of the underlying substrate afforded by much of the trenching works.

6.2 The monitoring work did, however, demonstrate significant truncation of the underlying natural clay in the vicinity of the present roadways and the houses that front them. It must be considered unlikely that any archaeological remains survive in these areas. To the rear of the current properties, no such truncation was evident; here it is conceivable that archaeological features may survive, albeit beyond the limits of the present groundworks.

6.2 The plough scars themselves remain undated. However, the agricultural character of the landscape within which they were observed should not be discounted and it is possible that the features represent evidence of fairly recent ploughing.

## **7.0 CONCLUSION**

7.1 No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the monitoring, with the exception of some plough scarring of the underlying natural clay observed at the northern end of the scheme.

## **8.0 BIBLIOGRAPHY**

ASE 2008: *Stone Cross 1<sup>st</sup> Time Sewerage Scheme, East Sussex. Archaeological Watching Brief Written Scheme of Investigation* Unpub. ASE Method Statement

Atkins Heritage 2008. *Southern Water First Time Sewerage Scheme (FTSS) Stone Cross. Cultural Heritage Report.* Unpub. Client Report

ESCC 2008. *Standards For Archaeological Fieldwork, Recording, and Post-Excavation Work in East Sussex.*

**SMR Summary Form**

Site Code	SCS09					
Identification Name and Address	Stone Cross First Time Sewerage Scheme					
County, District &/or Borough	East Sussex, Stone Cross,					
OS Grid Refs.	TQ 616 051 to TQ 614 045					
Geology	Weald Clay over Hastings Beds					
Arch. South-East Project Number	3513					
Type of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>Watching Brief</b> ✓	Standing Structure	Survey	Other
Type of Site	<b>Green Field</b> ✓	Shallow Urban	Deep Urban	Other		
Dates of Fieldwork	Eval.	Excav.	<b>WB.</b> 28/07/08 – 16/01/09	Other		
Sponsor/Client	HMPJV Ltd.					
Project Manager	Neil Griffin					
Project Supervisor	Diccon Hart					
Period Summary	Palaeo.	Meso.	Neo.	BA	IA	RB
	AS	MED	PM	Other ? Modern		
<p><i>Archaeology South East was commissioned by HMP:JV Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the first time sewerage scheme at Stone Cross, East Sussex. (NGR 561607 105164 to 561424 104508). No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the monitoring, with the exception of some plough scarring of the underlying natural clay observed at the northern end of the scheme.</i></p>						

## OASIS SUMMARY FORM

**OASIS ID: archaeol6-56831**

### Project details

Project name Stone Cross Sewerage WB, East Sussex

Short description of the project Archaeology South East was commissioned by HMP:JV Ltd. to undertake an archaeological watching brief during groundworks associated with the first time sewerage scheme at Stone Cross, East Sussex. (NGR 561607 105164 to 561424 104508). No archaeological deposits or features were observed during the monitoring, with the exception of some plough scarring of the underlying natural clay observed at the northern end of the scheme

Project dates Start: 28-07-2008 End: 16-01-2009

Previous/future work No / Not known

Any associated project reference codes 3513 - Contracting Unit No.

Any associated project reference codes SCS09 - Sitecode

Type of project Recording project

Site status None

Current Land use Other 15 - Other

Monument type NONE None

Monument type NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Significant Finds NONE None

Investigation type 'Watching Brief'

Prompt                      Direction from Local Planning Authority - PPG16

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**Project location**

Country                      England  
Site location                EAST SUSSEX EASTBOURNE EASTBOURNE Stone Cross  
  
Postcode                    BN24 5  
  
Study area                  6786.00 Square metres  
  
Site coordinates            TQ 616 051 50.8222658556 0.294583466035 50 49 20 N 000 17 40 E  
Point  
  
Site coordinates            TQ 614 045 50.8169300139 0.291482025012 50 49 00 N 000 17 29 E  
Point  
  
Height OD / Depth        Min: 11.74m Max: 16.11m

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**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          Diccon Hart  
  
Type of sponsor/funding body    HMPJV Ltd

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**Project archives**

Physical Archive            No

Exists?

Digital Archive recipient      local museum

Digital Contents      'none'

Digital Media available      'Text'

Paper Archive recipient      local museum

Paper Contents      'none'

Paper Media available      'Context sheet','Photograph','Plan','Unpublished Text'

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**Project bibliography 1**

Publication type      Grey literature (unpublished document/manuscript)

Title      An Archaeological Watching Brief during the Stone Cross First Time Sewerage Scheme, Stone Cross, East Sussex

Author(s)/Editor(s)      Hart, D

Other bibliographic details      report no. 2009044

Date      2009

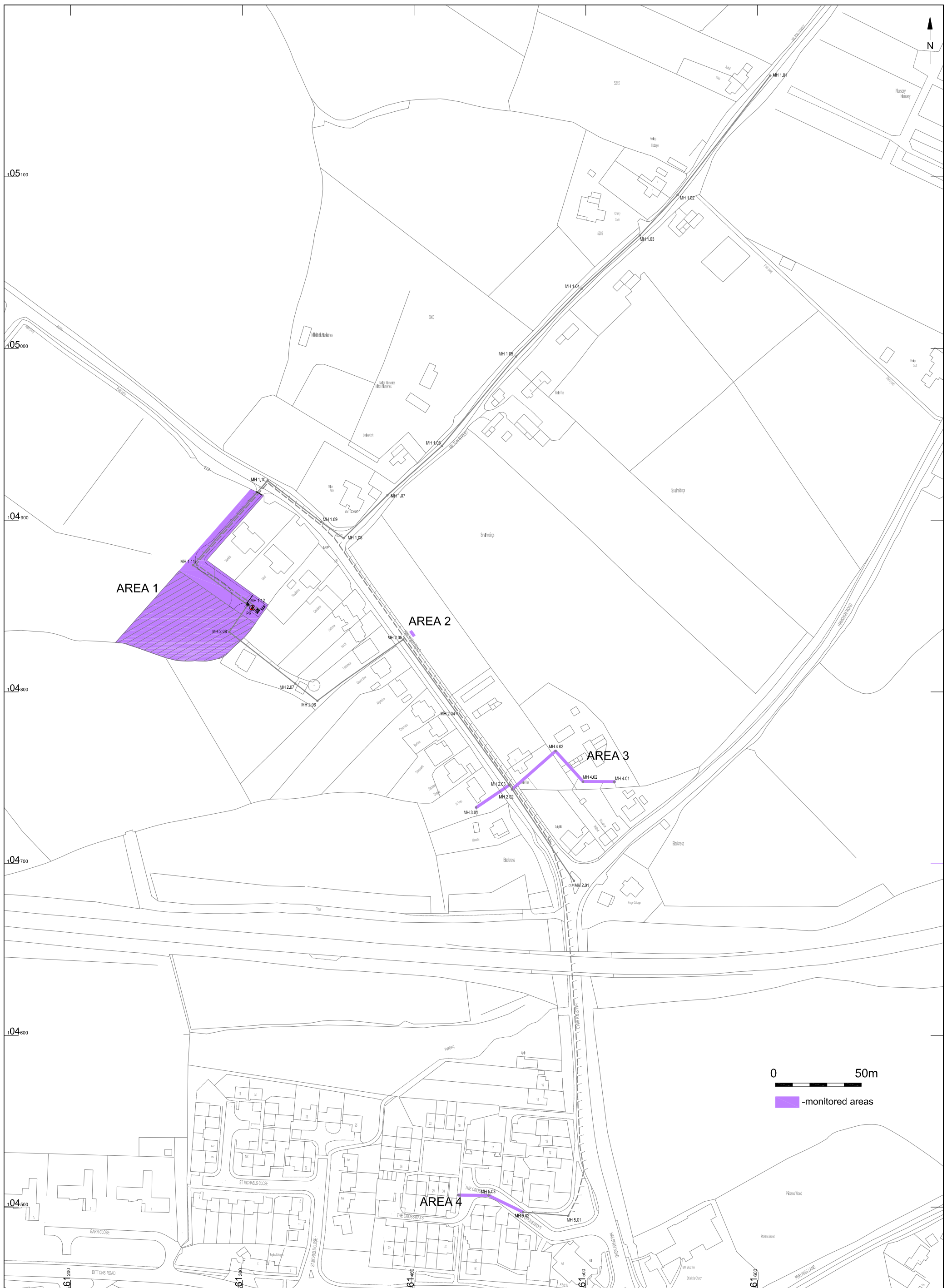
Issuer or publisher      Archaeology South East

Place of issue or publication      Portslade



© Archaeology South-East		Stone Cross First Time Sewerage Scheme		Fig. 1
Project Ref: 3513	April 2009	Site Location Plan		
Report Ref: 2009044	Drawn by: JLR			

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© Archaeology South-East		Stone Cross First Time Sewerage Scheme	Fig. 2
Project Ref: 3513	April 2009	Plan of Monitored Areas	
Report Ref: 2009044	Drawn by: LD		

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